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BOOK 2



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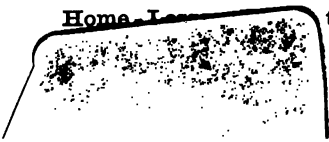
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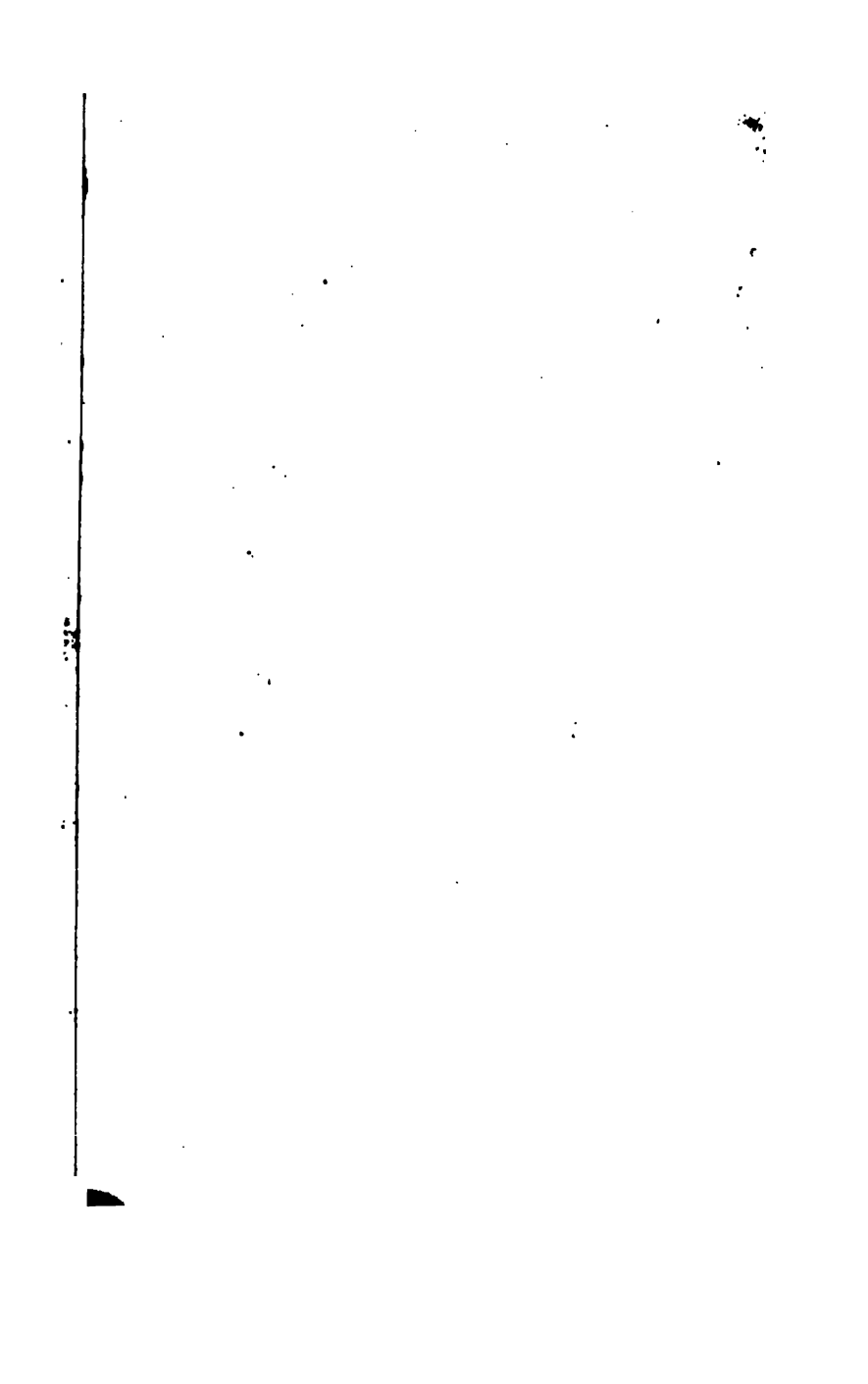
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SECOND

HISTORICAL READER.

THE PLANTAGENETS.—HOUSE OF ANJOU.

1.—HENRY THE SECOND, CALLED CURTMANTLE.—I.

1154-1189.—*Reigned 35 years.*

1. **Who Henry II. was.**—Henry the Second was the son of Maud—the daughter of Henry the First,—and Geoffrey, the Count of Anjou in France. His father was called Geoffrey of the Broom-Plant, or **Geoffrey Plantagenet**; because he was in the habit of wearing a sprig of this plant in his cap. Henry II. was more of a Frenchman than his grandfather, or even the other Norman kings; while he was a Norman only on his mother's side, on his father's side he was a Frenchman. He was the first Plantagenet who sat upon this throne of England; and he reigned not only over England, he ruled also over about two-thirds of France, and was more powerful in that country than the King of France himself. He was a man of middle height, with a large round bullet-shaped head, a ruddy face—broad and al-

most square—and with large, open, staring, dark-brown eyes.

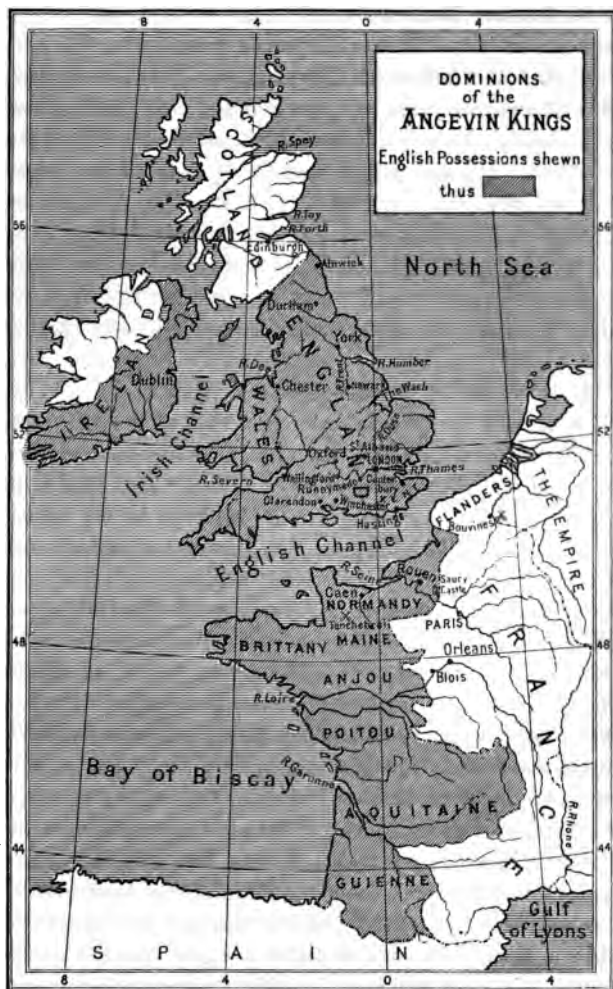
2. Henry brings Order into England.—We have seen that, during the reigns of Stephen and Matilda, England



Henry II.

had been for nineteen long wretched years the scene of fightings, robbery, pillage, and bloodshed. Henry at once set to work to put all this right; and he worked terribly hard. He made the barons pull down their strong castles—those “dens of thieves and robbers;” he encouraged farmers and labourers to work; he protected every kind

of industry; and there was peace in the land once more. King Henry was perhaps the hardest worker in all his kingdom. An old writer tells us: “He stands on his feet from morning to night, when engaged in business. If his plans require it, he will travel in one day as far as other men will in five, and he tires out the strongest men by his rapid journeys.” The King of France said of him: “He neither rides nor sails; he flies with the swiftness of a bird; he is said to be in England, and he is in France; he is believed to be in Ireland, and he is in England.” By his hard work and stern rule, he in time broke the power of the unruly barons, and brought good order and peace into his kingdom.



3. Thomas Becket. — His chief adviser and fellow-worker in all this was a young man called Thomas Becket. The father of this young man, Gilbert Becket, was a great merchant, and the Portreeve (or Lord Mayor) of London. Becket had been educated at the University of Paris. He was a tall, handsome, bright-eyed, high-spirited, and brave young man. The king thought so highly of him, that step by step he raised him to be Chancellor of the kingdom. Both he and the king were mere youths; and they soon became fast friends; they worked and wrote, consulted and jested, sported and played together.

4. How Becket lived. — Becket's mode of life was on a far grander and richer scale than that of the king; he kept open house, and any man might come in and feast at his table. The great nobles of the land sent their sons to serve as pages in his house. He kept in his family seven hundred knights; he had also in his pay a small army of 1200 cavalry and 4000 infantry.

5. Becket is created Archbishop of Canterbury. — When Archbishop Theobald died, Henry resolved to raise Thomas Becket to the archbishopric of Canterbury, the highest place in the Church of England. Becket was very unwilling. Pointing to his gay and splendid attire, he said to the king — "You are choosing a fine dress to figure at the head of your Canterbury monks." Henry, however, was firm; and chose Becket because he thought him the most able man. But as soon as he had been made archbishop, a great change came upon Becket. He left off his gay clothes, and wore next his skin a hard shirt of haircloth; he gave up his costly feasts, his long train of knights and attendants, and every evening washed with his own hands the feet of

thirteen beggars. Instead of knights and barons at his table, there came and ate with him only poor men—learned clerks and pious priests. Now that he was at the head of the Church in England, he cared for the Church, and for the Church alone; and he no longer spent his days with Henry, as he used to do.

pill'-age, plundering; despoiling.
en-cour'-age, put new hope into; help.
engaged' in business (biz'-nes), occupied with work.
un-ru'-ly, not obedient to law or rule.

con-sult'-ed, talked over plans.
on a richer scale, in a more costly way.
cav'-al-ry, horse-soldiers.
in'-fant-ry, foot-soldiers.

Plantagenet, from Latin *Planta Genist'a* = the broom-plant, the crest worn by Geoffrey (= Jeffrey) of Anjou.

Chancellor, the chief adviser of the king.

Archbishop, the chief bishop. There are two in England, the archbishop of York and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Archbishopric, the province of an archbishop.

Shirt of haircloth, these shirts were sometimes worn by Roman Catholic priests.

2.—HENRY THE SECOND, CALLED CURTMANTLE.—II.

1154-1189.—Reigned 35 years.

1. Henry and Becket quarrel.—Henry wanted to make the laws of England the same for all classes and kinds of men—for English as well as for Normans, for rich as well as for poor, for priests as well as for laymen. But Becket, now that he was archbishop, would not hear of this; he insisted that the Church must rule itself. So the two friends quarrelled; and the quarrel grew so fierce that Becket had to flee from the country. He crossed over to France and remained in that land for more than six years. He was at length allowed to return to Canter-

bury; but the quarrel still went on, until at length it ended in the murder of Becket by four of Henry's knights, one December evening, in the year 1170.

2. Henry's Repentance.—Henry was afterwards very sorry for what had been done by his unruly knights. He felt the wickedness of the deed most when troubles and misfortunes came upon him. Three of his sons rebelled against him; his own wife became his bitterest enemy; and several of his barons rose against their king. The Pope too sent him word that, to show his sorrow for the crime that had been committed, he must go and do penance at the shrine of the martyred bishop. Henry crossed from Normandy, where he was staying; made his way to Canterbury; knelt at the tomb of the murdered man; pressed his face to the cold marble; and then, rising, poured forth to the monks and priests his sorrow for the wicked words he had spoken, and the cruel and impious deed that had sprung from them. His penance was not yet over: the monks scourged him with knotted cords; and he passed the night in the dark crypt.

3. The Conquest of Ireland, 1169-1171.—It was in this reign of Henry II. that England first gained a firm footing in the neighbouring country of Ireland; and the invasion of Ireland by an English army is one of the chief events of Henry II.'s reign. That country was at this time divided into six kingdoms; and the petty chiefs and kings were constantly at war among themselves. One of these, Dermot, King of Leinster, had been driven from his throne. He made his way to Henry and promised that, if he would help him to regain his crown, he would hold his kingdom as a subject of the kings of England. Henry, however, could not go to

Ireland himself; but he allowed **Richard Strongbow**, Earl of Pembroke, to take with him an army to help Dermot. Strongbow took Waterford, Dublin, and other towns; married Eva, the daughter of Dermot; and the power of the English kings was now firmly planted in Ireland. Henry himself visited Dublin in 1171, and received the homage of the Irish kings and chiefs.

4 Henry's Family.—Henry was a good king to England, and a kind father to his children. He was, however, not happy in his family, nor were his sons good sons to their father. They wanted to have for themselves portions of his dominions to rule over; but Henry told them that he was not in the habit of taking off his clothes till he went to bed. By this he meant that he would not hand over his lands and power to his sons till after his death. So the three sons, angry at their father's refusal, made a league with the kings of France and Scotland, and fought eagerly against him.

5. The Death of Henry, 1189.—They marched into Henry's lands in France; and the poor father had to flee before them. One after another of his French towns was taken from him; and feeling old, very ill and weak, full of pain, shame, and sorrow, he retreated before the armies of his sons. At last he lay on his deathbed: and he sent a messenger to beg for peace. When a peace had been made, he asked to see a list of the barons who had risen against him. At the head of the list stood the name of John, his youngest son, his favourite, his best-loved child, the friend and companion of his sports and his labours. Turning his face to the wall, he said: "Now let things go as they will; I care no more for myself nor for the world!" He was carried to one of his castles in France, and there he died in 1189.

lay'-men , men not belonging to the Church.	crypt , an underground cell used for burial, generally under a church.
in-sist'-ed , said, and held to what he said.	in-va'-sion , an entrance into and attack made on another country.
to do pen'-ance , to offer one's self to be punished for a fault.	pet'-ty , small and of very little importance.
shrine , tomb or building over a grave.	hom'-age , the act of taking the oath of fealty or submission.
mar'-tyred , put to death for one's belief.	do-min'-ions , countries or lands ruled over.
im'-pi-ous , unholy.	
to make a league , to join together against some common enemy.	

Canterbury, the cathedral city and county town of Kent, and the seat of an archbishop, who is Primate of all England.

Normandy, a province in the north-west of France, in the basin of the river Seine.

Waterford, a town on the south-east coast of Ireland.

Dublin, the capital of Ireland, on the river Liffey, which falls into the Irish Sea on the east coast.

3.—THE MURDER OF THOMAS BECKET.

Dec. 29, 1170.

1. Becket's Return to England.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, after more than six years' absence from home, met Henry at a town in France, and became friends with him again. There was, therefore, nothing now to keep him from his work and from the old scene of his labours in the lovely city of Canterbury. He accordingly made his way to the coast of France, took ship, and set sail for England. When his friends—the monks and clergy who were with him—saw once more the old white cliffs of their dear native land, they turned to Archbishop Thomas and said: "That is England! we shall soon be at home again!" "Yes," replied Becket; "but you will wish yourselves somewhere else before fifty days are over." The heart of the great Archbishop did

not beat high with hope ; it was, indeed, filled with nothing but forebodings and fear. When he landed, the men and women of Kent met him with blessings and shouts of welcome ; but all he said, in reply to their delight and their outbursts of joy, was : “ I thank you, my dear friends ; but I am come to die among you.”

2. The Unhappy Question.—He did not come to England with peace and forgiveness in his heart. Even before he set out for his native shores he had issued letters of excommunication against the Archbishop of York, and the new bishops of London and Salisbury. No sooner had these three priests learned this than they set sail for France to make their complaints to the king. Henry burst into a fit of the most terrible anger. Wild words broke from him in his rage. “ Is there none of you cowardly fellows,” he cried, “ whom I feed at my table, will rid me of this proud priest ? The creature came to my Court on a lame horse without a saddle, and now he sits upon the throne, and the knights, who eat of my bread, look on ! ” The King did not mean to ask his knights to put him to death ; he was simply raging and storming—uttering wild, mad, and wicked words in the heat and fury of his fierce and lawless passion. Four of Henry’s knights, stung by these bitter words, left the Court that night, took horse, made their way to the coast, crossed the Channel, and galloped in all haste to the palace of the Archbishop Thomas in the city of Canterbury.

3. In the Palace.—The knights forced their way into the palace, and even into the private room of the Archbishop. They asked him to take off the excommunication and to set the three bishops free ; but he curtly and sternly refused. They threatened him with death ;

he stood calm, silent, and unmoved. The four knights left the palace and went away to look for their arms; the time for vespers had come, and the Archbishop went into the cathedral as usual.

4. In the Cathedral.—The monks were singing in the choir, when two boys rushed in terror up the nave, dropped panting and breathless on their knees before the Archbishop, and cried that the soldiers were bursting into the cathedral. The four knights had forced their way in, and the clank of their steel armour echoed dismally through the aisles as they ran forward—Reginald Fitzurse in front, shouting, “This way, this way, King’s men!” They rushed into the church: it was about five o’clock on a December evening; and there was no light except the feeble light which came from a few candles that burned before the altars. “Where,” shouted Fitzurse, “where is the traitor, Thomas Becket?” The Archbishop turned and came down the steps to the transept—“Here am I, no traitor,—no traitor, but a priest of God!” He planted himself with his back against a pillar, and calmly faced his foes.

5. The Struggle.—Fitzurse sprang back a few paces. Then the knights gathered round him with the shout: “Free the bishops! Free the bishops!” “I can do nothing! I can do nothing but what I have done!” replied Becket. Fitzurse pressed the blade of his axe against his breast and cried: “You shall die! I will tear out your heart!” Another, who did not wish to kill him, struck him on the back with the flat of his sword, and said: “Fly, Archbishop; fly, or you are a dead man!” “I am ready to die,” replied Becket, “for God and the Church!” Fitzurse now threw down his axe, and tried to drag him out by the collar of the cloak.

"Come along, you are our prisoner!" But Becket wrenched his cloak out of the grasp of Fitzurse. One of the knights, named Tracy, was seized by the powerful arm of Becket, who flung him at full length upon the pavement of the cathedral. It was impossible to drag the resolute man away; he stood his ground against all the strength of four strong knights.

6. The Murder.—The knights were now furious with rage; and in their rage they forgot everything—they forgot the sacred place, the service, the man, themselves.



The Murder of Becket.

Fitzurse rushed upon the Archbishop with his drawn sword, shouting "Strike! strike!" and Tracy also sprang forward and dealt him a blow on the head. The blood ran down his face; he wiped it off with his arm, and said, "Into thy hands, O Lord, I commit my spirit:" Then he turned his face to the altar and muttered in a low voice, "For Christ and the Church I am willing to die!" So saying, he fell slowly flat on

his face; and, in his fall, the folds of his mantle lay in perfect order. While he was lying there, another knight aimed a blow at his head with such force that a piece of his skull was struck off, and the sword-blade snapped in two upon the pavement. The Archbishop was dead; and the thoughtless wish of the king had been carried out. "Let us be off!" cried one of the knights—"let us be off! The traitor is dead—he will never rise again!"

7. The News.—The news of this terrible and brutal murder sent a thrill of horror through Kent, through England, and through Christendom. Henry himself shuddered with terror; and his conscience made his days wretched and his nights sleepless. The people of England looked upon Becket as a martyr; pilgrimages were made to his tomb; it was said that miracles were wrought there—that the sick were healed and the lame were made able to walk again. Becket was made a saint, and he became the most popular English saint in the whole island.

fore-bod'-ing, a feeling that something is going to happen.

is'-sued, set forth.

ex-com-mun-i-ca'-tion, expelling from the Church.

to make a com-plaint', to find fault with; to accuse of injury.

curt'-ly, shortly and sharply.

ves'-pers, evening service.

dis'-mal-ly, sadly; mournfully.

tran'-sept, the part of a church at right angles to the nave.

wrenched, tore away by force.

pave'-ment, floor.

res'-o-lute, determined.

pil'-grim-ag-es, religious journeys made to the tombs of saints.

Cathedral really means a church with a *cathedra* or bishop's chair. It is the principal church in a diocese; and in it stands the *seat* or throne of the bishop.

Christendom, all the countries in which the Christian religion is known and followed.

4.—RICHARD THE FIRST, CALLED LION-HEART.—I.

1189-1199.—*Reigned 10 years.*

1. **Who Richard was.**—Henry II. had five sons—the eldest of whom, William, died when a baby; the second son, Henry, died before his father; and Richard, who followed him on the throne, was the third son. The other sons were Geoffrey Plantagenet, and John Plantagenet. Richard was a very tall man, graceful in figure, and with very long arms and legs. His hair was of a reddish auburn; his strength was “as the strength of ten men;” he was the most daring soldier and the most famous warrior of his day; and his courage and daring made people give him the name of Lion-Heart.

2. **Richard is crowned, 1189.**—Richard was crowned in Westminster Abbey, and with much more than the usual pomp and splendour. Great lords and earls carried before the king the golden spurs, the royal sceptre, the golden rod with the dove, and the massive crown of England loaded with the most precious jewels; and four barons held above him a silken canopy stretched upon the points of four lances. At the banquet which took place after the coronation, earls and barons waited at his table, great citizens of London served as butlers in his cellar, and citizens of Winchester in his kitchen. Never before, in the history of this island, had such doings been seen.

3. **Richard goes on the Third Crusade, 1190.**—Richard was King of England for ten years; but he did not live in England—he was only about six months altogether in the country; for much the largest part of his reign he

was away on a crusade. To go on a crusade he wanted money. There were a hundred thousand marks in his father's treasury; but this was not nearly enough. So he set to work and sold everything he could lay his

hands on. He sold the crown lands; he sold the public offices; he sold earldoms; he sold to the King of Scotland the right of homage which his father Henry had claimed. "I would sell London," he said, "if I could find a purchaser."



Richard I.

4. Richard marries

Berengaria. — On his way to the Holy Land, Richard stop-

ped at several places—among others at the islands of Sicily and Cyprus. While in Cyprus he married Berengaria, a daughter of the King of Navarre,—a small kingdom in the north-east of Spain,—and there made her Queen of England. But though she was Queen of England, she never set foot in this country all her life; she never saw the land of which she had been made queen.

an'-burn, a reddish-brown colour.

splen'-dour, magnificence; glory.

mass'-ive, large and heavy.

prec'-ious, of great price; rare and costly.

can'-o-py, a covering stretched over head or above a seat.

ban'-quet, a feast.

mark, an old English coin worth 13s. 4d.

treas'-u-ry, place where the money of the kingdom is kept.

Westminster Abbey, a famous church on the Thames, in London, where the kings of England are crowned and also buried. Many of England's greatest men also lie there.

Winchester, in Hampshire, was the capital of England before London was. It was also the capital of Alfred's kingdom of Wessex.

Sicily, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, at the south end of Italy.

Cyprus, an island in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. It is at present in the keeping of Great Britain.

5.—RICHARD THE FIRST, CALLED LION-HEART.—II.

1189-1199.—*Reigned 10 years.*

1. Richard quarrels with the Duke of Austria.—After his marriage Richard sailed for Acre. By the aid of his active mind, by his hard work and restless energy, the town was soon taken; and the army of the Crusaders marched south to Ascalon. This town they also took, and then set to work to fortify it and make it stronger against the Saracens. Richard himself laboured hard at the works, and used his hands and arms just like the hardest-working among the common soldiers. While en-



Crusader.

gaged in this labour, on a hot and sultry day, he saw Leopold, Duke of Austria, standing a little apart, looking on very cool, very comfortable, and very idle. "Come along and lend a hand!" shouted Richard; "every one must do something to help on the work!" But the haughty duke replied: "Thank you; but I am neither a mason nor a ditcher!" Upon this, Richard threw down his pickaxe, fell upon the duke, used a good deal of

strong language, kicked him very heartily, and knocked him down. Leopold at once left the army, and went back to Austria. He forgot neither the insult nor the injury ; he nursed his wrath to keep it warm ; and the time was not long in coming when he could gratify his feelings of revenge.



Saracens.

2. Richard is taken Captive.—Richard soon after set his face to the west to return home. The ship in which he sailed was driven up the Adriatic Sea ; a storm came on ; and it was wrecked upon the coast of the dominions of Leopold. Thus Richard fell into the hands of his old enemy, who threw him into a dungeon. The duke kept him in prison for some time, but afterwards sold “the chained lion” to the Emperor of Germany. When the people of England heard that their king was a prisoner and a captive, they made a very large sacrifice,—they gave up one-fourth of their movable property to buy him out of the hands of the emperor.

3. Richard returns to England.—In the beginning of the year 1194 Richard was free, and in England once more. When the King of France heard this alarming news, he wrote to Richard’s younger brother, John—

“Take care of yourself; the lion is loose!” for John had, in the absence of his brother, seized on Normandy. Richard remained only two months in England, and then left for Normandy, to make war against the King of France. Philip of France, who was called the Lamb, as Richard was the Lion, had been very friendly with Richard when in Sicily: but the friendship had long been dead, and now Philip was his greatest enemy. To defend Normandy against Philip, Richard built a castle on the banks of the Seine, and called it “Saucy Castle.” When the French king heard of this, he exclaimed in great wrath: “I will take it—this castle of yours—were its walls of iron!” “And I will hold it against you,” replied Richard, “were its walls of butter!”

4. Richard's Death, 1199.—Richard was always in want of money for his plans and his wars. One morning word was brought him that one of his vassal lords in France had found a treasure—“twelve knights of gold and a king of gold sitting round a table of gold,” such was the report. The very word *gold* aroused Richard's strongest feelings; his passions were in arms; he must have his share; and, of course, his share must be the lion's share. The Norman lord refused to give up any part of the treasure. Richard set his troops in motion, and laid siege to his castle. During the siege, which lasted some time, an arrow pierced the shoulder of the king; the surgeons, in cutting it out, mangled the flesh horribly; a fever followed; and Richard saw plainly that he must die. He ordered Bertram de Gourdon, the archer who had wounded him, to be brought into his presence. “What have I done to you,” he said, “that you should kill me?” And Bertram made answer: “You slew my father and my brother with your own hand, and you

wanted but now to kill me. Take any revenge you choose, put me to any torture you can think of; I am glad that I have killed the man who has brought evils so many and so great upon my house." Richard ordered him to be set free, and dismissed him with the words, "I forgive you my death!"

en'-er-gy, great strength and activity of mind.

for-ti-fy, to make stronger to bear an attack.

sul'-try, very hot and close.

in'-sult, an injury which causes a feeling of shame.

dun'-geon, a prison-cell, often underground.

sac'-ri-fice, something given up for a purpose.

mov'-a-ble prop'-er-ty, all the goods belonging to a person that can be moved; all property except land and houses.

vas'-sal, one bound by oath to fight for his master.

siege, a *sitting* down with an army before a town or castle to take it by force.

man'-gled, cut and torn.

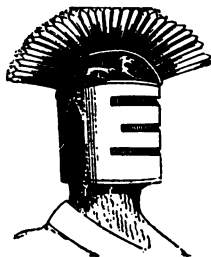
tor'-ture, great pain or suffering.

dis-missed', sent away.

Acre, a town on the coast of Palestine.

Ascalon, a town of Palestine, also on the coast, almost due west from Jerusalem.

Seine, a river in France, on which Paris stands. It flows north-west into the English Channel.



6.—KING JOHN, CALLED LACKLAND.—I.

1199-1216.—*Reigned 17 years.*

1. **Who John was.**—John was the youngest son of Henry the Second. The name he usually went by was John Lackland, because, when his father died, he had left him no dominion to rule over. When he was still a very young man, his father sent him to Ireland to rule it. But he showed no talent for rule. He only insulted the Irish kings and chiefs, plucked their long beards, mocked their odd manners, jeered at them, and showed



King John.

himself in every way a bad and unwise ruler. He had also been a bad son and a bad brother, and it was not to be expected that he would show himself a good king.

2. **John and Arthur.**—Richard the First had left no children. John's elder brother was called Geoffrey, Duke of Brittany; and, at his death, he had left a young son called **Arthur of Brittany**. Many persons held that Arthur ought to be king; but John made haste to seize him—flung him into prison in the castle of Rouen; and he was never again seen outside its walls. There are

many stories about his end. Hubert de Burgh, the governor of the castle, says one story, was ordered by King John to put out his eyes; but the prayers and tears, the youth and sweetness of the lad, moved him to change his mind, and to disobey the orders of the king. Upon this, as the story goes, John himself came to the castle, took Arthur out one dark night in a boat on the Seine, stabbed him to the heart with his own dagger, and flung his body into the river.

3. John has to answer for Arthur's Death.—Philip, King of France, claimed to be Overlord of Brittany and Normandy; and when he heard of the death of young Arthur, he summoned John to appear before his Court to answer for the murder of "a homager of the crown of France." John refused to appear before this Court; and thereupon the Court declared that he was no longer the rightful Duke of Normandy, but that this duchy must now belong to the kings of France, and be part of the lands under the French crown. Philip now raised an army to march into Normandy; and, in spite of Castle Saucy and some hard fighting on the part of John's troops, he succeeded so well that he was soon in possession of the whole province. For two hundred years after, this large and rich duchy remained in the hands of the kings of France. The loss of Normandy was a bad thing for John, but a good thing for the people of England. For, from this date, the Normans in England began to be proud of being Englishmen, and to forget that they were of foreign blood; whereas, before this they had been ashamed of being taken for natives of this country. Indeed, when they denied any unjust or untrue statement, they had been in the habit of saying with pride and scorn: "What! do you take me for an Englishman?"

4. John quarrels with the Pope.—John wanted one man to be Archbishop of Canterbury; the Pope wanted another man; and so the two quarrelled. John refused to obey the Pope; and that powerful ruler put the kingdom of England under an interdict. This was a terrible thing. All the churches were shut; no services were performed; the monks could go on with their services only with closed doors, and the people were not admitted. The pictures of the saints and the crosses in the churches were draped in black crape. No services could be read over the dead—they were buried in silence; and they were not buried in the churchyard, but in the fields, in ditches, and in waste places. No merry bells rang out for weddings: for no couple could be joined in wedlock. Sadness and silence brooded over the land. John was now in a terrible rage with the Pope, and with all priests; and when he heard that a Welshman had murdered a priest, all he said was: "Let the man go: he has killed an enemy of mine!"

jeered, laughed at; mocked.
 sum'-moned, called upon; commanded.
 hom'-ag-er, one who has paid homage
 or has sworn fealty to a superior.
 duch'-y, the territory of a duke; a
 dukedom.

suc-ceed'-ed, got on.
 state'-ment, anything said or set
 forth.
 in'-ter-dict, the ban or curse of the
 Pope.
 wed'-lock, the bonds of marriage.

Brittany or Bretagne is an old province in the north-west of France. It forms the northern boundary of the Bay of Biscay.

Rouen (Roo-ān'), one of the chief manufacturing and trading cities of France, is situated on the river Seine, 68 miles north-west of Paris.

7.—KING JOHN, CALLED LACKLAND.—II.

1199-1216.—*Reigned 17 years.*

1. John is deposed.—John still hardened his heart he refused to obey; and at length the Pope publicl declared that he was no longer King of England. H ordered Philip, King of France, to raise an army, marc

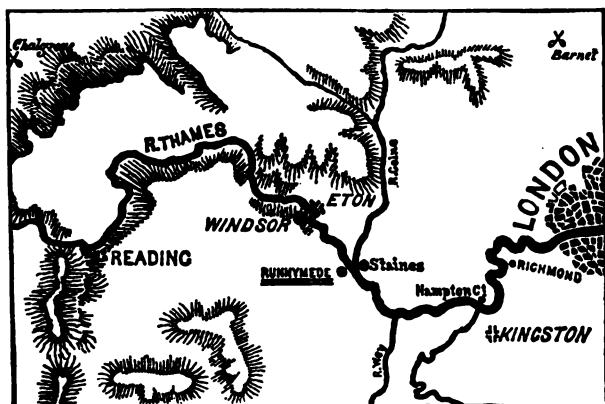


into England, and take the crown out of the hands of the rebellious monarch. But surely the people of England would never suffer this: they would rush to arms to support their king. No. The barons and the people of England held aloof from their own king; no man offered to come to his aid; and at last John became thoroughly and terribly alarmed. So he resolved—as nothing better could be done—to make his peace with the Pope. He went to Pandulf, the Pope's legate, took off his crown, laid it at his feet and offered to hold it—if he were allowed to have it back—as a humble vassal of the Pope's. Pandulf kept the crown of England locked up for three days, and then handed it back to the humbled king. The barons and people of Eng

Baron in reign of King John.
to the humbled king.

land were astonished ; nay, they were disgusted. "This a King of England !" they cried ; "he has become the Pope's man ; he is nothing but a vassal—nay, a mere serf of the Pope's !"

2. John quarrels with the Barons.—John now wanted to cross over to France to attack Philip ; but his barons refused to go with him, or to send their men. So he took over with him a body of men called Free Lances ;



and he also gathered together, by spending large sums of money, a large body of troops from his lands in France. The two armies met at Bouvines,¹ in the north of France ; and the army of John was thoroughly beaten. If John had gained this battle, he would have come home a strong man and crushed the power of the barons ; but he returned, on the contrary, a weak ruler—he returned, indeed, to find them in open league against him. At the head of this league stood **Stephen Langton**, Arch-

¹ Pronounced Boo-veen.

bishop of Canterbury—the very man whom John had refused to receive as archbishop. Of all the proud nobles and powerful barons of England, only seven knights were on the side of John; against him stood a whole nation in arms.

3. Runnymede, June 15, 1215.—John agreed to meet and talk with his barons, and he promised to do all they wished. The place of meeting was near an island in the Thames, about four miles east of Windsor; and here he signed the Great Charter, or **Magna Carta** as it is called in Latin—which is “the corner-stone of the liberty and the rights of the people of England.” Twenty-four barons were named as trustees to see that John kept all his promises.

4. War with the Barons.—John signed the Charter, and pledged his royal word to the barons; but not for one moment did he mean to keep it. As soon as he found himself able, he raised in France and other countries an army of hired soldiers, and began to lay waste his own kingdom of England with fire and sword. The barons in their need turned their thoughts towards Louis the Lion, the son of King Philip of France. They sent and asked him to come over and help them; and they even went so far as to make him the offer of the crown of England. Louis agreed to come, and landed with a large army in Kent, marched to London, and was joyfully welcomed by the citizens of that ancient and world-famous city.

5. Death of John, 1216.—John was in the east of England with his army; and one day he was crossing the Wash with his troops and baggage-waggons, when the tide came up with a great and swift rush, and drowned many of his soldiers. The treasure, including

the crown and jewels of the king, were lost in the rising waves. John himself got safe to land—but angry, bitter, and depressed. He stopped for the night at Swineshead Abbey, where the monks gave him a good supper. It was too good a supper: he was very fond of peaches and new ale; and he ate and drank a great deal too much. He was so ill after his good supper that he thought the monks had poisoned him; and he ordered his soldiers to carry him to Newark Abbey, where he died in pain and misery both of mind and body. Before his death, the hot and raging fever rose to a terrible height, and he might well believe that poison was at work within his heated veins.



Newark Abbey.

re-bell'-ious, not obeying law or order.
held a-loof, kept away from; did not assist.

leg'-ate, a person sent with an order, especially from the Pope.

dis-gust'-ed, offended with, and ashamed of.

serf, a slave attached to the land.

trus-tee', one who is intrusted with anything; one who sees that a bargain is kept.

world'-fa-mous, known all the world over.

bag'-gage, the goods and stores of an army.

de-pressed', in low spirits.

Bouvinnes (Boo-veen), a small town in the extreme north of France.

Kent, the county that forms the south-east corner of England.

Wash, a wide opening on the east coast of England, with a shallow sea and long stretches of low-lying sand.

Newark, a town in Nottinghamshire on the river Trent.

8.—THE GREAT CHARTER.

June 15, 1215.

1. **The Agreement.**—When John heard the news that some of the English barons had made a league against him, he let loose his Free Lances or “Free Companions”—as they called themselves—on the English estates of these men, and laid them waste with fire and sword. Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, went forth to meet him at Northampton, and solemnly forbade him to permit such things to be done. “These things are contrary to the laws of our country and to the oaths you have taken as a king,” he said. “These barons are your vassals; and before being punished, they have a right to be tried and judged by their peers—and by their peers alone.” John raged and stormed at him. “Rule you the Church,” he cried, “and leave me to manage my own business—leave me to govern the State!” But the barons, gaining strength,—as strength is always gained by union and stern oneness of purpose,—drew up a charter, and laid it before the king with a demand that he should accept and sign it. He asked for delay; and he promised to grant what they asked in three months: but the time gained he spent in making his castles strong, in “taking the cross,”—so that he might be looked upon as a Crusader,—and in hiring more “Free Companions” from abroad. During the Easter of 1215 the barons met at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, with a strong army of two thousand steel-clad knights and their squires. They sent the archbishop down to Oxford, where the king was, to ask him now at length to sign the charter. “Why don’t you ask for my crown at once?”

cried John, in a fury. "Do the barons think I will grant them liberties that will make me a wretch and a



King John after signing Magna Carta.

slave?" It was in vain. Everything was going against the king. Every day more and more barons left his side ; more and more went over to the side of the right and of

the archbishop. At last the miserable John saw himself with only seven knights to guard his person, and he gave in. "Tell me where and when I shall meet you!" he said to the messenger of the barons. "At Runnymede, on the 15th of June," was the reply.

2. Runnymede, June 15, 1215.—Runnymede is a long low plain on the right bank of the Thames, not far from the towns of Staines and Windsor. On this plain the barons pitched their camp, beside an old tree, known in that part of the country as the Ankerwyke Yew. It was a strong and hearty tree when the English barons encamped beside it in the year 1215, and, at the present day, it still bears its hardy green leaf, more than six hundred and fifty winters after the signing of the Great Charter. On the morning of the memorable June the fifteenth, a procession of gaily clad lords, knights, and attendants, with banners streaming in the wind, might be seen marching slowly down the heights of Windsor Castle. In the train of King John were Cardinal Pandulf, Cardinal Archbishop Langton, seven other bishops, and many nobles; but there was not one among them all, except perhaps Pandulf, whose heart was not with the brave and determined barons who stood together against their king.

3. The Signing.—John met the great barons of England in the most amiable and kindly manner—with a smile of sweetness and courtesy on his face, but with rage, fury, and revenge in his heart. There was not much to talk about. John knew very well he had to sign the Great Charter, and any little talk that took place was merely to save appearances. The power of John had been broken at Bouvines. The articles of the Charter were read over, agreed to, and signed by John

and several of the barons ; and the king rode back to his splendid castle of Windsor. Four-and-twenty barons were named to see that the articles in the Charter were fully carried out ; and they were empowered to call the other barons at once to arms if they were not.

4. After the Signing.—As soon as John entered his own room at Windsor Castle, the passion of his volcanic nature broke forth—such rage and such passion as were sometimes shown by his father Henry. He flung himself on the floor ; he rolled about ; he tore his clothes ; in the fury of his rage he gnawed sticks and straw—the straw that served for a carpet to his room ; he shrieked,—“I am a serf ! I am a slave ! They have given me four-and-twenty overlords to look after me !”

5. The Chief Articles.—There are many articles in Magna Carta of the greatest value to Englishmen ; but the 39th and the 40th are looked upon as the most useful to the country, and as the corner-stone of the rights and liberties of Englishmen. These two articles are :—

39. NO FREEMAN SHALL BE TAKEN OR IMPRISONED OR IN ANY WAY PUNISHED, UNLESS BY THE LAWFUL JUDGMENT OF HIS PEERS, OR BY THE LAW OF THE LAND.

40. WE WILL SELL TO NO MAN, WE WILL NOT DENY TO ANY MAN, EITHER JUSTICE OR RIGHT.

The king likewise promised not to seize the goods of any one or to force money from him against his own will and pleasure.

6. Meaning of these Articles.—The meaning of these articles is, that the life, property, and person of every Englishman were safe and in his own hands, and that the king could not injure him in any way until he had been tried by law before his equals or peers. The king was

not to be a tyrant—not to have in his own hands the power of taking as much of the money of his subjects as he pleased, of throwing them into prison when he pleased, or of putting them to death. If the king were to get any money from them, that money must be given to him according to law, and for the public good and the public ends of the whole country. No man, moreover, could be punished without a trial in open court; and that trial must be held by those who were in the same rank of life as himself—that is, he must be tried by his peers. On these two articles has been built the whole system of English law.

7. The Charter itself.—The Great Charter was written in Latin; but the news of its signing, and what its articles were about, spread rapidly throughout the whole country. A parchment copy was sent to every cathedral in England, and ordered to be read publicly to the congregation twice a-year. The first copy, which John himself signed—blurred, tattered, creased with age, stained and shrivelled with fire—is still to be seen by any one who wishes to see it, in the British Museum in London. It is hung up, framed, and glazed—and the seal of King John is still attached to it.

per-mit', allow; suffer.

un'-ion, the joining together.

char'-ter, an agreement. It was so called because it was written on paper, or rather on parchment.

to sign, to write one's name to any agreement.

squires, the servants or attendants of knights.

en-camped', pitched their tents.

mem'-or-able, that deserves to be re-

membered.

de-ter'-mined, resolved.

were em-pow'-ered, had power given them.

vol-can'-ic, that bursts up suddenly like a volcano.

parch'-ment, skin prepared for writing upon.

con-gre-ga'-tion, people gathered together for church service.

Free Lances. These were roving companies of knights, who, after the Crusades, offered their services to any one who was willing to pay for them.

Taking the cross. A knight took the cross (had a cross sewn on his coat) before going on a crusade. John took it to make people believe that his war against the barons was a holy war.

Cardinal, the highest kind of priest in the Church of Rome, who holds office next to the Pope.

9.—HENRY THE THIRD, CALLED OF WINCHESTER.—I.

1216-1272.—Reigned 56 years.

1. Henry the Child-King.—Henry the Third, though the eldest son of John, was only nine years of age when he came to the throne. He was crowned by the Pope's legate, who placed upon his head a golden circlet belonging to his mother; for the royal crown of England had been lost in the Wash. The Earl of Pembroke was appointed **Rector**—that is to say, Guardian and Ruler—of the King and Kingdom; and Hubert de Burgh was ordered to aid the Earl of Pembroke.



Henry III.

2. Louis the Lion goes away.—Louis the Lion thought himself an ill-used man when he saw the proud barons, who had been so eager and earnest in asking him to come to England, calmly go over to the side of the young

Henry. He kept up the struggle, however, for about a year; but two battles—one fought on land, the other at sea—put an end to his long-cherished and not ill-founded hopes of obtaining the English crown. The first battle was fought at **Lincoln**. One of Louis's generals laid siege to the castle, and marched his men up the narrow streets and along the crooked lanes of that ancient city. The Earl of Pembroke at once saw that he had the enemy in a trap; and he ordered his knights and bowmen to attack them. The French fell in crowds—they fell like corn before the reaper; and so few were killed upon the side of Henry, that the battle was usually talked of in sport as the "Fair of Lincoln." The battle at sea was fought off **Dover**, and was gained by Hubert de Burgh, who ordered his sailors to throw handfuls of quicklime into the air, that the wind might carry it into the eyes of the French. This last defeat was all that was wanted; it at once put an end to the hopes of Louis; and he left England without any further attempt against the rights of Henry.

3. Hubert de Burgh.—When Henry grew up, he forgot what he owed to his kind and able friend, and he had the bad taste to quarrel with the good Hubert de Burgh. Hubert fled from the Court and took refuge beside the altar of a church in Brentwood—a small town in Essex; but Henry's men-at-arms marched down to Brentwood, broke into the church, seized Hubert, and dragged him from the altar. They then sent for a smith to shackle his limbs with iron fetters. When the smith saw who the man was he was asked to bind, he refused to obey the order given him. "I will die any death," he said, "before I put irons on the man who freed England from the foreigner, and saved the port of Dover from France."

The king, however, kept Hubert in prison for a long time, and did not set him free until he had forced from him by far the largest part of his lands and money.

4. Henry's Favourites.—Henry married a lady from the south of France, called Eleanor of Provence; and in her train there came a large crowd of hungry French nobles. Henry was not a man of strong will; he had little self-control; and so he was ruled by his wife, by his mother, by his favourites, by his courtiers—in short, by everybody but himself. Henry's favourites asked and received from him many things—castles, lands, earldoms, lordships, abbacies, bishoprics;—indeed they got almost everything that Henry was able to give. The English—that is to say, the Normans born in England—got nothing. The favourites were far from courteous; they were, on the contrary, haughty, insolent, and overbearing; they did what they pleased; and when a complaint was made, their reply was: “Law! law! what have we to do with your scurvy law? Your law was not made for us; it was made only for your English boors!”

5. Money! Money!—The king himself was always ready to take money, and always asking for money; and, in fact, he made a trade of his kingly office. Money, too, was wanted for the Pope as well as for the king and his officers; and money was also wanted for the crowd of favourites. In the year 1239, a son—afterwards Edward I.—was born to Henry; and the king sent out messengers into city, town, village, and hamlet, all over the kingdom, to ask for presents from all the nobles, merchants, traders, and yeomen. “God gave us this child,” said the Norman nobles; “but the king sells him to us.”

6. The Barons are displeased.—By taxes of every kind raised in every way, by fines, by what were called

"gifts," but which were really forced payments, Henry contrived to amass very large sums of money. The barons were very angry; and most of them saw and said that this kind of thing could never go on, and must not go on.

cir'-clet, a small circle. (Like stream-
let, *hamlet*.)

quick'-lime, lime which has not been
slaked with water.

fet'-ters, chains for binding prisoners.

for'-eign-er, a native of another coun-
try.

self-con-trol', power over one's self.

fa'-vour-ites, persons to whom a lik-

ing is shown.

ab'-ba-cies, the offices and rights of an
abbot.

court'-eous, kind and obliging in man-
ner.

in'-so-lent, rude; insulting.

boors, coarse and awkward persons.

ham'-let, a *small home*; a little village.

a-mass', collect; gather together.

Provence, formerly a province in the extreme south-east of France, bordered on the south by the Mediterranean.

10.—HENRY THE THIRD, CALLED OF WINCHESTER.—II.

1216-1272.—*Reigned 56 years.*

1. The Mad Parliament, 1258.—The barons accordingly met to talk about this evil state of affairs at Oxford; and the king was asked to come and speak with them. They appeared in full armour, and stood waiting in the hall of meeting with swords unsheathed. Henry, on entering, looked round in alarm, and exclaimed, "I am a prisoner!" "No, sir," replied Roger Bigot, a famous baron; "but your favourites and your wastefulness have brought poverty and misery upon this kingdom, and we are come to speak with you." The king, like his father John, was then forced to agree that the kingdom

should be ruled for him, and that twenty-four barons should be named to manage the business of the country. This meeting of the barons is known as the **Mad Parliament**. Its doings were published throughout the country—through all the counties and towns of England—in the English language. Before this, all deeds and laws were made known either in French or in Latin. Hence this date of 1258 ought to be remembered by us as a landmark in the history of the English tongue; for in this year was issued and made public the first royal proclamation to the whole of England ever drawn up in our English speech.

2. Simon de Montfort.—The leader of the barons at this time was a famous man, named Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester—not an Englishman, or even a Norman, but a Frenchman by birth. He was a wise and brave man—the first soldier of his day, one of the ablest, and also one of the best, men in England. He was commonly called Earl Simon; or, more usually, Sir Simon the Righteous. He gradually rose to be the leader of the English people, to be beloved by the Commons, respected by the clergy as “a man who loved right and hated wrong;” and he it is who was the founder of the Parliament of England.

3. The Battle of Lewes, 1264.—The king and the twenty-four barons did not long agree—it was hardly to be expected they should; and at length a war broke out. The two armies—of the king and of De Montfort—met near the town of Lewes, in the county of Sussex; De Montfort was victorious, and the king and one of his sons were taken prisoners.

4. The First Parliament, 1264.—“The victory of Lewes,” says a great historian, “placed Earl Simon at

the head of the State." Prince Edward, the eldest son of Henry, gave himself up a prisoner, that his father might be set free. A treaty was now made that the business of the country should be managed by Earl Simon and his friends; but everything was to be done in the name of the king. The earl resolved to call together a large Parliament to help and to guide him in rightly and justly ruling the land. At the beginning of this reign the Great Council of the nation consisted of nobles, bishops, and abbots; and it was very like our present House of Lords without the House of Commons. But Earl Simon called upon each county to send two men up to London to make known their wants and wishes. These men were called Knights of the Shire. He also asked each town and city to send up two of their citizens or burgesses to say in Parliament what they wanted done. What he aimed at was to find out what England as a whole, and not any mere part of it, really needed—what the country thought was good for it. And this is still the work of our English Parliament—this is what our English Parliament still means.

5. The Battle of Evesham, 1265.—The Earl of Gloucester had, up to this time, been a firm friend of De Montfort; but they quarrelled, and Gloucester from henceforward was on the side of the youthful Edward. Prince Edward contrived to escape from the hands of his guards; and he joined the Earl of Gloucester, who had raised an army for him in the west of England. They surprised the army of De Montfort near the town of Evesham,¹ in Worcestershire. As Edward's army came out, De Montfort exclaimed,—“By the arm of St James, they march well; they come on in wise fashion; but it was of me

¹ Pronounced Eesham.

they learned it." King Henry was with De Montfort, and was forced to fight on his side. He was nearly slain in the battle. "I am Henry of Winchester, your king!" he cried from the midst of a crowd of fiercely fighting men; and Edward knew the voice, put spurs to his horse, and brought him in safety to his own side. The fight was a desperate one; no quarter was given upon either side; and De Montfort's friends fought with all the courage of despair. One by one his friends had fallen around him; and at last the great earl was left alone. A blow from behind felled him to the ground; and with the words, "It is the grace of God!" the soul of the great statesman and soldier passed away.

6. Henry's Death, 1272.—Henry the Third died in the year 1272, after a reign of fifty-six years. Only two other kings of England have reigned more than fifty years—Edward III., who reigned a little more than fifty, and George III., who reigned a little less than sixty years. Henry left behind him two sons, Edward Longshanks or Edward I., and Edmund Crouch-back, the Earl of Lancaster. Henry was a kind husband and a good father, but not at all a good or able king. The best thing he did for England was to raise beautiful buildings; and to make more beautiful the Abbey of Westminster, which had been begun by Edward the Confessor.

un-sheathed', drawn out of the sheath or covering.

land'-mark, anything marking the land and serving for a guide or boundary.

roy'-al pro-clam-a'-tion, a public notice given by the sovereign or those who act for the sovereign.

re-spect'-ed, honoured.

treat'-y, agreement.

man'-aged, carried on.

bur'-gess-es, inhabitants of a borough; freemen.

sur-prised', came upon suddenly.

des'-per-ate, hopeless but determined.

states'-man, a man engaged in public affairs; one who has charge of part of the business of a country.

A BALLAD OF EVESHAM.

1. Earl Simon on the abbey tower
In summer sunshine stood,
While helm and spear, o'er Greenhill heights,
Came glinting through the wood.
"My son," he cried, "I know his flag
Amongst a thousand glancing."
"Fond father, no; 'tis Edward stern,
In royal strength advancing!"
2. The Prince fell on him like a hawk,
At Al'ster yestereve,
And flaunts his captured banner now,
And flaunts but to deceive.
Look round, for Mortimer is nigh,
And guards the rearward river.
The hour that parted sire and son
Has parted them for ever.
3. "Young Simon's dead" he thinks, and looks
Upon his living son.
"Now God have mercy on our souls:
Our bodies are undone.
But Hugh and Henry, ye can fly
Before their bowmen smite us.
They come on well! But 'tis from me
They learnt the skill to fight us."
4. "For England's cause and England's laws
With you we fight and fall
Together then, and die like men,
And heaven will hold us all!"

Then face to face, and limb to limb,
And sword with sword inwoven ;
That stubborn courage of the race
On Evesham field was proven.

5. O happy hills ! O summer sky,
Above the valley bent !
Your peacefulness rebukes the rage
Of blood on blood intent.
6. No thought was *there* of death or life
Through that long dreadful hour,
While Simon and his faithful few
Stood like an iron tower,
'Gainst which the winds and waves are hurled
In vain, unmoved, four square ;
And round him stormed the raging swords
Of Edward and De Clare.
7. And still the light of England's cause
And England's love was o'er him,
Until he saw his gallant boy
Go down in blood before him.
8. He raised his huge two-handed blade,
He cried, " 'Tis time to die ! "
And smote about him like a flail,
And cleared a space to lie.
" Thank God ! " he said ; nor long could life
From Henry's side divide him—
And night fell o'er De Montfort dead :
And England wept beside him.

F. T. PALGRAVE.

glint'-ing, glancing.

ad-vanc'-ing, coming on.

flaunts, holds forth proudly and boastingly.

rear'-ward, behind; towards the back.

in-tent', resolved upon.

sire, father.

un-done', ruined; lost entirely.

in-wov'-en, twisted together, as the fibres in cloth.

stub'-born, that will not yield.

Al'ster, Alcester, an old English town (built in the time of the Romans), sixteen miles from Warwick.

Hugh and Henry, sons of Simon de Montfort.

11.—EDWARD THE FIRST, CALLED LONGSHANKS.—I.

1272-1307.—*Reigned 35 years.*

1. Edward I. is crowned.—Edward the First was proclaimed king in the year 1272—just after the death of



Edward I.

his father; but he was not crowned till two years later. At his coronation, bonfires blazed on the high hills; great feasts and banquets were given in Westminster, in all the large cities, and in many parts of the country; in the city of London the fountains were set running with wine; and five hundred strong war-horses

were let loose, as a gift to the people, to be the prizes of

those who were swift enough and bold enough to pursue and to catch them.

2. The Conquest of Wales.—When Edward came to the throne, his chief desire was to see the whole island of Great Britain united under his rule—as one kingdom. Now the Prince of Wales at that time was a chieftain called Llewellyn, who had married a daughter of Simon de Montfort. He and his brother David had taken an oath to obey King Edward: but for all this they did not or could not stop the Welsh from making inroads into the English lands. All along the western border—the March of Wales, as it was called—the people were in the habit of breaking in, slaying the English people, and plundering the English fields and the English towns. The towns had to be strongly walled and a constant watch kept up; and the walls of Chester, which are still standing, are a proof of the need there was for guarding against the fierce inroads of the warlike Welsh. Llewellyn himself at length completely forgot his oath, took up arms against Edward, and made Snowdon his stronghold. Edward found it impossible to drive him out of this mountain-land until he had hired from the Pyrenees a thousand hardy hunters, armed with heavy axes, who had been accustomed all their lives to climb and fight among rugged passes and snow-clad peaks.

3. The Last Welsh Prince of Wales.—Llewellyn was driven from post to post, and was at length forced to fly; and, to cheat his pursuers, he ordered his horse's shoes to be put on backwards. But the smith who had done the work did not keep the secret to himself, but told the enemy of the trick. Llewellyn was pursued, captured, and slain; his head was sent to London, and fixed on one of the pinnacles of the Tower. A crown of ivy was

placed upon it—in mockery of an old prophecy which had always been believed by the Welsh, that a Prince of Wales would one day be crowned in London.

4. The First English Prince of Wales.—The Welsh chieftains intended to petition Edward for a prince of their own nation and who could speak their language; and Edward promised to give them a prince who was to be indeed a “prince of their own.” He promised them a prince with three striking qualities: He should be born in Wales; he should be unable to speak a word of English; and he should be one who had never done harm to man, woman, or child. This pleased the Welsh chieftains; and they readily promised to obey a prince of so high and pure a character. So the king brought out to the assembled chieftains his infant son, who was born in the strong castle of Caernarvon in 1284. This prince was born in Wales; could not speak a word of English; and had certainly never done harm to man, woman, or child. And thus it came to pass that the Welsh chieftains did homage to the young English prince; a Welsh nurse and Welsh servants were hired to attend on him; and from that day to this the eldest son of the King or Queen of England has always been called the Prince of Wales.

pur-sue', follow after.

in'-road, a *riding into* an enemy's country, for the purpose of plunder or attack.

bor'-der, line of division; boundary.

ac-cus'-tomed, used; were in the habit.

cap'-tured, taken prisoner.

pin'-na-cle, a high turret or tower.

as-sem'-bled, gathered together.

chief'-tain, the ruler of a small tribe or clan.

Snowdon, in Caernarvonshire, the highest mountain in Wales.

Pyrenees, a range of mountains running along the north of Spain, and dividing it from France.

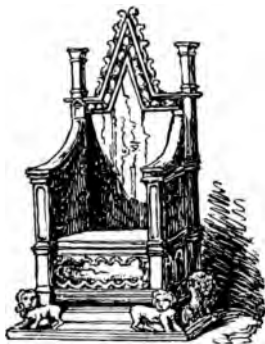
Caernarvon, the county-town of Caernarvonshire, a county in the north of Wales.

12.—EDWARD THE FIRST, CALLED
LONGSHANKS.—II.

1272-1307.—*Reigned 35 years.*

1. **The Crown of Scotland.**—The heiress to the crown of Scotland, a little girl called the Maiden of Norway, had died; and thirteen Scottish gentlemen—most of them Normans by descent—came forward to claim the Scottish throne. The two foremost among them were **Robert de Bruce** and **John Baliol**—both of them Norman nobles, who, however, held land both in England and in Scotland.

2. **The Appeal to Edward.**—After a great deal of talking and disputing, the claimants at length agreed to lay their claims and their reasons in support of these claims before the English king. Edward accordingly went down to the Borders, and met the Scottish nobles at Norham Castle—a very strong keep on a steep bank that overhangs the clear waters of the lovely river Tweed. He agreed to listen to, and to try the case; but on one condition. Would the person to be chosen King of Scotland look upon the King of England as his Over-King or Lord Paramount? Would he swear homage to him and be his man? The Scottish claimants and nobles agreed to this condition; and at length, after hearing all sides, Edward declared John Baliol to be the rightful heir to the crown of Scotland.



Coronation Chair.

3. John Baliol.—But the Scotch neither liked nor respected their new king, John the First. Edward, for his part, was determined to be a real Lord Paramount; he was resolved that English law should hold good in Scotland; and this sometimes led to very odd and awkward events. Thus the King of Scotland himself was once summoned by a wine-merchant to appear before a court of law in London, to answer a charge relating to a cask of wine, which he declared had been already paid for. Baliol—though a king—was obliged to go, had to appear in court, lost his cause, and was compelled to pay. This threw the Scottish barons—most of them proud and haughty Normans—into a white heat of rage, and it also angered the Scottish people, who from this time formed the habit of calling their king a “Toom Tabard”—that is, an Empty Jacket; for he seemed to them no real king or man—but an empty coat, or a mere article of clothing. Baliol was himself quite willing to put up with this insult, but his barons would not allow him to do so. He was compelled by them to proclaim war against Edward; and he found an ally, as the Scottish kings usually did, in the King of France.

4. Edward marches into Scotland, 1295.—Edward raised an army, marched into Scotland, overthrew John Baliol, and deposed him from his throne and office. He flung the poor Scottish king into prison, swept away every sign or mark of royalty in Scotland, brought away with him the Scottish crown, the Scottish sceptre, and—more than all—the “Stone of Destiny.” It was seated upon this stone that the kings of Scotland had always been crowned. It is seated upon this stone that the kings and queens of England now receive the crown of the three kingdoms; for it now forms part of the

coronation chair of England, and in this chair our present Queen, Victoria, was crowned at Westminster nearly fifty years ago.

5. Edward's Death, 1307.—Robert the Bruce—grandson of that Robert de Bruce who had met Edward at Norham—suddenly in the year 1306 flew to arms, and called upon the Norman barons and yeomen of Scotland to follow his standard. Edward was very angry when he heard this news; and he looked upon Bruce as a rebel and a promise-breaker. He therefore vowed a great vow that he would take no rest until he had attacked, defeated, and punished this Scottish rebel; and he made his son and heir take the same oath. His son and his chief barons were forced to swear that they would never sleep two nights in the same place until Bruce was punished; and that if Edward should die during the course of the war, they would not bury his bones until this vow was fulfilled. For Edward was now an old man; he was far from well; indeed he was so weak that he could hardly sit upon his horse. He managed with great pain and difficulty to reach Burgh-upon-Sands, a small village on the Solway Firth, saw the hills of Scotland across the wide stretch of water, could go no further, stopped, and died there. With his dying breath, he once more charged his son, on pain of his curse, not to bury his bones nor to be crowned himself until the kingdom of Scotland was utterly subdued.

6. Edward's Rule in England.—Edward I. did more for England than any king who has ever reigned here since the time of Alfred the Great. He was a just and upright man; he respected the law himself; and he compelled other people to respect it. He never made a promise that he did not keep; and he punished with

great severity those who did not keep theirs.—It was in this reign that Parliament was divided into two Houses—the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Parliament, too, became very strong in this reign: indeed it



Edward's Tomb.

was so strong that it was able to refuse the king money for his wars unless he would do all that it wished—that is, make good laws and lay on light taxes.

7. Edward's Character. —

Edward was a just and wise man, slow in planning, but swift in carrying out his plans. He was merciful as well

as just. "No man," he said in his old age, "ever asked mercy of me and was refused." His father, Henry III, had been very careless about keeping his promises; but Edward scorned such conduct. He respected the law; he respected his own word; he respected himself; and he took care that the law should be obeyed both by high and by low. His body lies in Westminster Abbey; and the words on his tomb are few, short, and simple. They

are in Latin ; but the following is the meaning of them in English :—

**EDWARD THE FIRST
HAMMER OF THE SCOTS, 1307
KEEP YOUR WORD**

by de-scent', by birth ; by race.
claim'-ant, one who makes a claim,
because he thinks he has a right or
title to a thing.
keep, a castle ; a stronghold.
Lord Par'-a-mount, a lord or king
who has power over other lords or
kings.
awk'-ward, curious and unfortunate.

com-pelled', forced.
scep'-tre, a rod borne by kings as a
sign of their power.
stand'-ard, a flag or ensign carried in
war.
reb'-el, one who fights against his
master.
ut'-ter-ly sub-dued', brought com-
pletely under his power.

Tweed, a large river in the south of Scotland ; it forms part of the boundary between England and Scotland.

Tabard, a herald's coat or jacket without sleeves.

Stone of Destiny, the stone that formed the seat of the coronation chair of Scotland. It was supposed to be the stone on which Jacob's head rested when he saw the vision of angels at Bethel.

Alfred the Great was King of Wessex and Overlord of England from 871 to 901. He rescued the country from the Danes ; he made many good and useful laws ; and he encouraged learning throughout the country.

**13.—EDWARD THE SECOND, CALLED
OF CAERNARVON.—I.**

1307-1327.—Reigned 20 years.

1. Who Edward II. was.—Edward the Second was the fifth son of Edward I. He was the heir to his father's throne, because his four elder brothers had died when

they were quite young. His mother, Queen Eleanor, had died when Edward himself was quite a little boy. This was a great misfortune as well as a very sad thing for him; for, if she had lived, it is very likely that he would have grown to be a better and stronger man through

a mother's care and a mother's training. Edward II. was a man of weak character, fond of show, fond of gaiety, fond of pleasure; and he cared much more for enjoying himself than for ruling his kingdom well.



Edward II.

2. Piers Gaveston.

—When Edward I. died, he left strict orders to his son to see that two things

were done. One was that his body was not to be buried until Scotland was thoroughly subdued; the second was that Piers Gaveston was on no account to be allowed to come to Court. This Piers Gaveston was a young, handsome, and clever Frenchman, in whose society the young king had always taken the greatest delight. Gaveston, however, was by no means a good companion for the young man, and had led the prince into so much mischief, that Edward I. had made both of them swear an oath never to meet again. But no sooner were the eyes of the dead king closed, than both forgot all about their oath, and Gaveston was back with the young king again, sporting,

joking, playing, frolicking, and mischief-making as hard as ever.

3. The Fall of Gaveston.—Gaveston grew very proud of the king's favour and friendship. He openly wore the crown jewels; he bore himself in an insolent and haughty manner even to the greatest barons of the realm; he was uncourteous and even scornful in his demeanour towards them; and he was fond of inventing odd and stinging nicknames for those who happened to be the most powerful. To the Earl of Lancaster—a cousin of the king's—he gave the name of "the old hog;" the Earl of Pembroke was "Joseph the Jew;" and the Earl of Warwick was dubbed with the nickname of "the black dog." At length the greater barons joined in a league against the insolent favourite—lay in wait for Gaveston, seized him, set him on a mule, and carried him off to Warwick Castle. There they held a meeting in the great hall, brought the prisoner before them, and put him through a kind of trial. At first there was a wish among several of the barons to spare him; but a voice in the room called out: "Let the fox go, and you will have to hunt him again!" This phrase decided his fate, and they made up their minds that he should die. He flung himself on his knees before Lancaster, and begged hard for his life, calling him "gentle Count," "sweet and gracious Lord;" but Lancaster was not to be talked over—he had not forgotten the former name of "old hog." Then Gaveston turned to Warwick, knelt before him, prayed and besought him; but the grim earl remembered too well his old vow that one day "the black dog" should show his teeth. So the barons carried him to Blacklow Hill—a low knoll of ground between Warwick and Coventry; and there, beneath a clump of ragged pine-trees, they struck off his head.

mis-for'-tune, a sad or unlucky event.
gai'-e-ty, sport; fun.
sub-dued', completely conquered.
frol'-ick-ing, playing merry tricks.

scorn'-ful in his **de-mean'-our**, proud
 or haughty in his manner.
de-cid'-ed, settled.
be-sought', begged; asked for.

Nickname is a corrupt form of the term *ekename*, which means a name added to another to *eke* it out. An *ekename* has become a *nickname*; the letter *n* having fallen away from the *article* and adhered to the *noun*.

14.—EDWARD THE SECOND, CALLED OF CAERNARVON.—II.

1307-1327.—Reigned 20 years.

1. **Scotland in 1313.**—Bruce had been working hard and fighting hard in Scotland, while Edward was thinking of nothing but amusing himself in England. He had wrested castle after castle out of the hands of the English governor, until at length Stirling Castle was the only stronghold left in the hands of the English king. This castle was and is a very strong place. It stands on a high rock, which rises sheer out of one of the richest and most level valleys in the whole of Scotland. Edward Bruce, the Scottish king's brother, found himself unable to take it with his small army, and he accordingly resolved to sit down before it, and to reduce it by blockade. The English governor, on his side, saw that, as he had no means of getting fresh provisions, he must one day surrender for want of food; and he therefore promised that if no help came to him before Midsummer Day, he would give up the castle to the Scottish forces at that date. He was not, however, idle in the interval. Messengers were sent by him to Edward II., urging him to come to the

rescue ; and he at once called together a large army from England, Wales, and from his dominions in the south of France.

2. Bannockburn, June 24, 1314.—The English army, led by Edward in person, numbered a hundred thousand men. The Scottish army, led by King Robert, had only about forty thousand. But it had two points in its favour—the best ground, and the most skilful commander ;



Battle of Bannockburn.

while the English king himself does not seem to have had much skill in the art of war. The two armies met on the banks of a brook or burn not far from Stirling, which flows into the river Forth—a brook which is still known by the name of the Bannock burn. Bruce had the night before ordered pits to be dug : these were covered with stakes and turf to make the surface look like firm

earth ; and during the fight, the heavy-armed English knights charged over this hollow ground, fell into the pits, became entangled together, and were miserably slain by the long knives of the Scottish footmen. The English were, indeed, beaten at every point ; and no such defeat has ever—before or since 1314—befallen an English army. Edward himself turned and fled, put spurs to his horse, and never drew rein till he had reached Dunbar, a town on the east coast of Scotland, sixty miles away. The Scotch made a great booty—money, pearls, rich robes, noble horses, herds of cattle, and such a quantity of baggage, that the waggons, if on one line, would have stretched along a road sixty miles in length.

3. Edward is deposed, 1327.—Edward could not live without a favourite ; and after the death of Gaveston, he took another, called **Despenser**. His wife, Isabel, with whom he had long been on bad terms, fled to France—her native country—raised an army there, and landed in England. The barons, who were far from being satisfied with the conduct of Edward, joined her ; put Despenser and his son to death ; and deposed Edward himself. He was brought before Parliament in a plain black gown ; the steward of the royal household broke his staff of office ; and from that moment Edward was no king at all, and no one owed him any service. He was now only plain Sir Edward of Caernarvon.

4. Murder of Edward II., 1327.—Edward was now at the mercy of his keepers ; no one seemed to care for him ; he was sent about from prison to prison, and treated with no respect and with much cruelty. One morning his keepers set a crown of hay upon his head ; and brought him—in an old battered helmet—some dirty ditch-water

to shave with. The hot tears coursed down his cheeks ; and the poor ex-king, scoffing sadly at his own state and mocking at his tears, said, "Do what you will : here is pure clean water enough !" He was taken to Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. The deep stillness of a dark moonless night was broken by shrieks which startled and woke the country people round about, and made them cross themselves with fear ; and in the morning the news went abroad that this wretched mockery of a king was dead.

wrest'-ed, taken by force.

rises sheer, rises straight up.

val'-ley, a tract of low ground between two ranges of hills.

re-duce' by **block-ade'**, to cause to surrender by setting troops all round and starving out the garrison.

scoff'-ing, laughing at ; mocking.

in'-ter-val, space between or time between.

en-tan'-gled, fastened together in confusion.

de-posed', put off the throne.

bat'-tered, deeply marked or bruised ; dented.

Stirling, a town in the beautiful level valley of the river Forth. On the height above the town stands one of the strongest castles in Scotland.

Edward of Caernarvon. He was called so because he was born at Caernarvon in Wales. He was the first Prince of Wales.

THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.—I.

1. Earl Gilbert waved his truncheon high,
 Just as the northern ranks arose,
 Signal for England's archery
 To halt and bend their bows.
 Then stepped each yeoman forth a pace,
 Glanced at the intervening space,
 And raised his left hand high :

To the right ear the cords they bring—
At once ten thousand bow-strings ring,
 Ten thousand arrows fly ! 10
Nor paused on the devoted Scot
The ceaseless fury of their shot ;
 As fiercely and as fast,
Forth whistling came the grey-goose wing,
As the wild hailstones pelt and ring
 Adown December's blast.
Nor mountain targe of tough bull-hide,
Nor Lowland mail, that storm may bide ;
Woe, woe to Scotland's bannered pride,
 If the fell shower may last ! 20

2. Upon the right, behind the wood,
Each by his steed dismounted, stood
The Scottish chivalry ;
With foot in stirrup, hand on mane,
Fierce Edward Bruce can scarce restrain
His own keen heart, his eager train,
Until the archers gained the plain ;
Then, " Mount, ye gallants free ! "
He cried ; and, vaulting from the ground,
His saddle every horseman found. 30
On high their glittering crests they toss,
As springs the wild-fire from the moss :
The shield hangs down on every breast,
Each ready lance is in the rest,
And loud shouts Edward Bruce :
" Forth, Marshal ! on the peasant foe !
We'll tame the terrors of their bow,
And cut the bow-string loose ! " 38

And loud shouts Edward Bruce :
 "Forth, Marshal ! on the peasant foe !
 We'll tame the terrors of their bow,
 And cut the bow-string loose !" 38

trun'-cheon, the staff of a general with which he points and guides.
in-ter-ven'-ing, coming between or lying between.
de-vot'-ed, (here means) doomed to die.
pelt, to strike; to beat upon.
targe, a target; a shield.

may bide, may resist or stand against.
crest, a plume or tuft of feathers worn on the helmet.
tame the ter'-rors, make their bows useless, and thus take away the fear they cause.

Grey-goose wing. The arrows were feathered with quills from the wing of the grey goose.

Edward Bruce, a brother of Robert Bruce, the king.

Wild-fire, Will-o'-the-wisp, a bright flame often seen in soft marshy ground, and caused by the marsh gas catching fire when it is forced up into the open air.

THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.—II.

1. Then spurs were dashed in chargers' flanks,
 They rushed among the archers' ranks;
 No spears were there the shock to let,
 No stakes to turn the charge were set.
 And how shall yeomen's armour slight
 Stand the long lance and mace of might,
 Or what may their short swords avail
 'Gainst barbed horse and shirt of mail?
 Amid their ranks the chargers sprung,
 High o'er their heads the weapons swung, 10
 And shriek, and groan, and vengeful shout,
 Give note of triumph and of rout.
 Awhile with stubborn hardihood,
 Their English hearts the strife made good;
 Borne down at length on every side,
 Compelled to flight, they scatter wide.
 Broken, dispersed, in flight o'erta'en,
 Pierced through, trod down, by thousands slain,
 They cumber Bannock's bloody plain.—

The King with scorn beheld their flight : 20
“Forward,” he cried, “each gallant knight !
Let gentle blood show generous might,
And chivalry redeem the fight !”

2. To rightward of the wild affray
The field showed fair and level way ;
But in mid-space, the Bruce's care
Had bored the ground with many a pit,
With turf and brushwood hidden yet,
That formed a ghastly snare.
Rushing, ten thousand horsemen came
With spears in rest, and hearts on flame,
That panted for the shock.
With blazing crests and banners spread,
And trumpet clang, and clamour dread,
The wide plain thundered to their tread
As far as Stirling rock.
Down ! down ! in headlong overthrow
Horseman and horse, the foremost go,
Wild floundering on the field.
The first are in destruction's gorge,
Their followers wildly o'er them urge ;—
The knightly helm and shield,
The mail, the acton, and the spear,
Strong hand, high heart, are useless here :
Loud from the mass confused the cry
Of dying warriors swells on high,
And steeds that shriek in agony !

SIR W. SCOTT.

let, hinder; check.

rout, defeat.

dis-persed', scattered.

cum'-ber, encumber; lie about in
heaps on.

gen'-tle blood, the blood of persons
of high rank.

chiv'-al-ry, *here* horsemen; also brav-
ery.

re-deem', win back.

af-fray', battle; fight.

clam'-our, great shouting.

floun'-der-ing, stumbling wildly in
confusion.

Mace, a heavy club of iron or some other metal.

Barbed horse—so called from a sharp barb of iron standing out from the horse's forehead.

15.—EDWARD THE THIRD, CALLED OF WINDSOR.—I.

1327-1377.—*Reigned 50 years.*

1. **Who Edward III. was.**—Edward the Third was the second son of Edward the Second. His elder brother had died young. He was only fourteen years of age when he came to the throne. Isabel, his mother—the “she-wolf of France”—and her favourite, **Roger Mortimer**, together ruled the country for him.

2. **The Fall of Isabel.**—But the young king, as soon as he reached the age of eighteen, made it publicly known to the whole country that henceforth he would rule the kingdom himself. Mortimer was put on his trial, condemned to death, and hanged; and Queen Isabel was sent to Castle Rising in Norfolk, where she was kept—a State prisoner—until the day of her death.

3. **The Hundred Years' War.**—In this reign began a terrible war with France, which lasted for more than a hundred years. It arose out of a claim which Edward III. made on the French throne. Edward's mother was the daughter of Philip the Fair, King of France; and as all her brothers had died, Edward held that a nephew ought not to succeed to the crown, but that he, as grandson in a

direct line, was the nearest and the rightful heir.—We must not, however, think that this great and terrible war went on without stopping for a hundred years. But, as there was fighting very often, and peace very seldom for the whole



Edward III.

of that period, it is generally spoken of in history as The Hundred Years' War. It broke out in the year 1338 ; and it did not come to an end till the year 1453.

4. Sluys,¹ 1340.—

One of the greatest of Edward's victories in the Hundred Years' War was a naval victory off **Sluys**, on the coast of French Flanders. The French

navy was drawn up in four lines—the ships lying so close that their masts “looked like a great wood ;” and Edward bore down straight upon them and grappled the enemy's ships with hooks. There was a desperate fight. The English archers swept the French decks with showers of arrows ; and the first French line was taken. The other lines, seeing their friends terribly slaughtered, were seized with a panic ; and thousands of the French sailors jumped out of their ships into the sea. The victory of the English was complete. For the French it was a terrible disaster ; and no one dared to carry the news to Philip VI., till at last the idea was hit upon of sending the Court jester into

¹ Pronounced Slooce.

the king's presence. He burst suddenly into the king's room in a pretended rage, jumping, dancing, and shouting, "The coward English! The dastard English! The faint-hearted English!" "What ails you at the English? Why do you abuse them, sirrah?" asked the king. "Why do I abuse them? sir, because they are cowards; because they had not the courage to jump into the sea, as so many of our brave Frenchmen did!" The French king saw what was meant; guessed the truth; and was struck to the heart by the news.

5. Crecy, 1346; and the Siege of Calais, 1347.—The next great victory of Edward was at Crecy, in the north of France; and this victory he owed chiefly to his English bowmen. From the battle-field of Crecy he marched to Calais, and laid siege to the town. This siege kept him in front of Calais for a year; at last he took it, not by force of arms, but by more terrible means—by the slow steady pressure of famine. The king turned almost every Frenchman out of the town and filled it with Englishmen; and Calais remained an English town for about two hundred years—till the time of Queen Mary, the daughter of Henry the Eighth.

6. The Scotch at Neville's Cross, 1346.—The Scotch, as usual, seized the opportunity of Edward's being at war with France, to march into England and lay waste the country far and wide. This was an old and long-standing policy of the northern nation. When the English had their hands full in front and were busy with a foreign enemy, the Scotch made their way in by the back-door and took what they wanted. On this occasion they said: "Edward is fighting the French; England is bare of fighting men—none but cowardly clerks¹ and mean

¹ Priests.

mechanics stand between us and a march to London! Let us be off!" But Edward left a very capable person—his own Queen Philippa—in charge; and she at once called together an army and boldly marched north to meet the Scotch. She met them at **Neville's Cross**, near Durham, defeated them with great slaughter, and took David himself, the King of the Scots, prisoner. Here, again, the English archers did by far the largest share of the work; and a saying now began to run through the English army: "Every English archer beareth under his girdle twenty-four Scots!" For twenty-four was the number of the arrows that each archer carried at his belt.

na'-val vic'-tor-y, a battle won by ships of the navy at sea.

grap'-pled, seized hold of.

pan'-ic, great and sudden fear.

dis-as'-ter, misfortune; calamity.

cap'-a-ble, having power or skill to do.

press'-ure of fam'-ine, the slow and steady force of hunger.

pol'-i-cy, line of action.

me-chan'-ics, persons engaged in machine-work; artisans.

Edward III. was the grandson of Philip IV., the Fair, of France, while Philip VI. was his nephew. But Edward's right came to him through his mother, and was therefore held to be not so good.

Calais, a town in the north-west of France, right opposite Dover. It is the key of France.

16.—EDWARD THE THIRD, CALLED OF WINDSOR.—II.

1327-1377.—Reigned 50 years.

1. The Black Death, 1349.—A terrible disease swept over the land in this reign, by which many thousands of people died—a disease known and spoken of as The Black Death. In many villages every house stood silent; and the houses, indeed, became the tombs of the poor people

who had died in them, because those who could had fled, and no one could be found to carry the dead to their graves. The people of England at this time numbered about four millions—just about the number now living in London alone ; and of these the Black Death swept away more than two millions—that is, one in every two persons. In Bristol, the grass grew several inches high in the streets ; and the population of the city of Norwich was almost entirely swept away.

2. Poitiers, 1356.—The war with France began again in 1355, but this time the general commanding was not Edward himself, but his eldest son the Black Prince. Near the town of Poitiers,¹ he met the army of the French under King John. The Black Prince took up a very strong position ; defeated the French army, which was about six times as large as his own, and took the French king prisoner. King John was brought to London and lodged in the Tower ; so that now there were two kings in that famous prison—the King of Scotland and the King of France.

3. King John of France.—The French King John, unlike our English king of the same name, was a man of good sense and high honour. His ransom had been set by Edward at three million crowns—an enormous sum even at the present time. A part had been paid by the French ; and he was allowed to leave London, and to return to his own country. Three of his sons went with him. They were obliged, however, to live in the English town of Calais ; but they were allowed to ride out into the open country—on their word of honour to return to the town on the fourth day. But one of the young French princes broke his word of honour, rode away altogether, and never

¹ Pronounced Po-ã-ti-eh.

came back. His father was so deeply shocked that he would not rest until he had returned to London and given himself up as a prisoner once more. "If honour is to be found nowhere else," he said, "it should find a refuge in



Map of France after the Peace of Bretigny.

the breast of kings." The English king and the English people were much moved by this noble conduct; they vied with each other who should show him most respect, and make his time pass most easily and pleasantly. But he died in London, at the Savoy Palace, three months after his return to England as a prisoner; and no doubt his end was hastened by the evil and dishonourable conduct of his son.

4. The Great Peace, 1360.—In the year 1359, Edward and all his sons—except one—marched into France for the fourth time. One day, in the year 1360, as he was laying siege to a French town, a dreadful storm of hail, thunder, and lightning came on. The Earl of Warwick was struck dead before the eyes of the king; and this terrible event stirred his soul to its very depths. He went to the nearest chapel, fell upon his knees before the altar, and vowed to make peace with the French. This peace was called the **Peace of Bretigny** or the Great Peace. By it Edward gave up his claim to the French crown and to the northern part of France, except Calais and Guisnes¹; but he kept his hold on the south of that country—on the part called Aquitaine.² The Black Prince was made governor of this province; and he kept royal state and maintained a splendid Court at Bordeaux.³ Here his son Richard was born—the boy who afterwards became Richard II., and who was generally spoken of in England as Richard of Bordeaux.

5. Chaucer and Wycliffe.

—Geoffrey Chaucer was the great English poet of this reign; and he is sometimes called “The Father of English Poetry.” He was born in the year 1340, and died in 1400.



Chaucer.

He wrote the “*Canterbury Tales*”—a set of stories supposed to be told by a number of pilgrims who are riding along the green lanes of Kent to the famous and healing shrine of the great Saint Thomas of Canterbury—Thomas

¹ Pronounced Geen.

² Pronounced Akeetaine.

³ Pronounced Bordō.

Becket.—John de Wycliffe was a good and able priest, who turned the Old and New Testaments into English for the use of the English people. The Bible, before his time, had always been read in Latin; and of course very few people were able to understand it.

6. The Death of Edward, 1377.—Edward died at Sheen, now called Richmond. During his last illness, his servants forsook him and left the palace. They snatched the rings from the old man's fingers, rifled his room, tore down his curtains, stripped the furniture, and carried away everything of value they could lay their hands upon. The only person with him at the last was a poor friar, who had strayed into his palace to beg, and who, passing from room to room, happened to come at length to the chamber where Edward was lying. The friar held the crucifix before his closing eyes; the poor old king clasped it fervently in his trembling old hands, kissed it, fell back, and died. His noblest son, the Black Prince, on whom the best hopes of the nation rested, had gone before him.

“Mighty victor, mighty lord,
 Low on his funeral couch he lies!
 No pitying heart, no eye, afford
 A tear to grace his obsequies.
 Is the sable warrior¹ fled?
 Thy son is gone: he rests among the dead.”

e-nor'-mous, very great.
 ref-uge, a place to flee to; a home.
 vied, strove.
 re-spect', honour.
 main-tained', kept up.
 heal'-ing shrine, a holy place or tomb,

a visit to which was supposed to
 cure diseases.
 ri'-fle, to strip; to take from by force.
 cru'-ci-fix, a figure of Christ fixed to
 the cross.
 fer'-vent-ly, earnestly.

¹ The Black Prince.

Norwich, the county town of Norfolk.

Poitiers (Po-ä-ti-eh), formerly the capital of the province of Poitou, now the capital of the department of Vienne.

King of Scotland, David II., son of Robert the Bruce, who was taken prisoner at Neville's Cross.

Bretigny, a small village about fifty miles south-west of Paris.

Guianes (Geen), a town in the north of France, near Calais.

Acquitaine (Akeetaine), the old province of France that lay between the river Garonne and the Pyrenees.

THE BLACK PRINCE ON HIS DEATHBED.

1. "Raise my faint head, my squires," he said,
"And let the casement be displayed,
That I may see once more
The splendour of the setting sun
Gleam on thy mirrored wave, Garonne,
And Blaye's empurpled shore.
2. "Like me he sinks to glory's sleep,
His fall the dews of evening steep,
As if in sorrow shed ;
So soft shall fall the trickling tear,
When England's maids and matrons hear,
Of their Black Edward dead.
3. "And though my sun of glory set,
Nor France nor England shall forget
The terror of my name ;
And oft shall Britain's heroes rise,
New planets in these southern skies,
Through clouds of blood and flame."

SIR W. SCOTT.

case'-ment, a window that opens sideways on hinges.

em-pur'-pled, made of the colour of purple. (The sea in the south of Europe is often of a very deep blue colour.)

trick'-ling, falling down drop by drop.

ma'-trons, mothers.

ter'-ror of my name, the terror caused at mention of my name.

Garonne (*Gard'n*), a river in the south of France. It flows N.W. into the Bay of Biscay.

Blaye, an old town of France, in Guienne, on the Garonne, twenty-one miles from Bordeaux.

New planets. Their glory would be bright, and gleaming like a planet, far above the things of earth.

17.—THE BATTLE OF CRECY.

August 26, 1346.

1. The Long March.—In the month of July of the year 1346, Edward embarked an army of about 30,000 men, ten thousand of whom were archers, sailed across the Channel, and landed them at La Hogue¹ in Normandy. As the king was leaving his ship, he chanced to stumble and fall upon the sand, and “so rudely that the blood burst from his nose.” The knights that were about him lifted him and said, “Sir, for Heaven’s sake, come back into your ship, and do not land to-day, for this is indeed an evil sign for us.” Then the king answered quickly, “Why should I go back? This is in reality a good sign; for the land itself desireth to have me.” And all his men were glad when they heard that answer. The English army marched near the coast, plundering and burning; and when they caught a rich man, they took him prisoner, and sent him on board the fleet till a large ransom should be paid for him. Edward, however,

¹ Pronounced La Oag (like the *oa* in *oak*).

soon left the coast, and struck inland with his army, until he came within sight of Paris. Then, turning north, he crossed the river Somme, and took up a position near the village of Crecy. The march had lasted seven weeks, through the rich and smiling country of France. It had been a lucky march for the English fighting-men; every one in the army had possessed himself of something—gold, or silver, or jewels; most had made themselves rich, and “the boys and villains of the host set nothing by good furred gowns.”



Passage of the Somme.

2. Before the Battle.—The French army lay right in front. Edward rose early on the morning of the 26th; prayed along with his young son, the Black Prince; and then set his troops in order of battle. All were to fight on foot. At daybreak he ordered his men “to eat at their ease and drink a cup;” and then they sat down in their ranks “on the warm grass” to wait patiently for the approach of an enemy nearly ten times their number.

3. Arms and Weapons of the English.—The men-at-arms in this battle fought, as usual, with sword, lance, and battle-axe; but the chief arm was the long-bow.

With this "mighty bow" the English archers fired so "thick and close" that sometimes every man in the part of the enemy's line at which they aimed was either killed or wounded, and so a gap was at once made in the ranks. The Welsh and Irish in Edward's army were armed with long knives; and it was their duty, when they saw a fight going on or any part of the enemy in confusion, to rush under the bellies of the horses and stab them; then the heavily armoured horses with their riders fell, and lay helpless on the ground. But the most effective weapons used in this battle were small "bombards" or cannon, "which with fire threw little iron balls to frighten the horses." These cannon had been previously used in sieges, but never before in a battle on the open field.

4. The Shouting Bowmen.—The French king, Philip VI., had in his army fifteen thousand Genoese cross-bowmen; and as soon as he came in sight of the English, he ordered them to advance, and to begin the fight. But they were hungry and tired with their march; and the strings of their bows were slackened by a heavy torrent of rain which had just fallen. It is true the rain had gone, and the sun shone out; but it shone in their eyes. When ordered to advance, "they made a great leap and cry; but the English stirred not. A second and a third time they leapt and uttered a fell cry—very loud and clear; but the English stirred not." The quiet, steady, English yeomen stood silent in their ranks; they made no reply; they uttered no sound.

5. The English Reply to the Shouts.—At last the Genoese let fly a shower of arrows. To this the English yeomen had a ready answer. A quick movement flashed along their line; they stepped forth one pace; and "their arrows flew so wholly together and so thick that it seemed

as if it snowed." The Genoese fled. Philip burst into a rage, and cried out fiercely, "Slay me these runaway rascals!" while his brother shouted, "Down with them, and let me ride over their carcasses against the English!" His angry knights too readily obeyed, and cut the foreign archers down by hundreds; while the English bowmen kept pouring in showers of arrows on the horrible fight that was going on between men on the same side.

6. Let the Boy win his Spurs!—The king was overlooking the battle from the wooden platform in front of a windmill that stood near the field, and was busy sending out orders in different directions to the different leaders. At a critical moment in the progress of the battle, news was brought him that his son, the Black Prince, who was then only a boy of fifteen, was hard pressed by the enemy. The Earl of Warwick, who felt very anxious about the safety of the heir to the crown of England, sent a message to the king asking for help. "Is my son killed?" said the king. "No, sire, please God," replied the messenger. "Is he wounded?" "No, sire." "Is he thrown to the ground?" "No, sire, not so; but he is very hard pressed." "Then," said the king, "go back to those that sent you, and tell them he shall have no help from me. Let the boy win his spurs; for I wish, if God so order it, that the day may be his."

7. The Blind King.—The battle went on, with hard fighting and much shedding of blood upon both sides. On the French side was an old blind warrior, King John of Bohemia. Blind as he was, he longed to be in the thick of the fight, for the ancient war-heat stirred in his blood once more. So he turned and asked a knight who stood by him how the battle was going. He was told that the Genoese archers had been routed. Turning to

the nobles and knights around him, he said : " Lords, you are my vassals, my friends, and my companions ; I pray you of your goodness to lead me so far into the fight that I may at least strike one blow with my sword." Then two knights drew up—one on each side of him ; and each took a rein of the king's bridle and fastened it to his own ; and thus these three rode together into the thickest of the fight. " The king," says the story-teller, " struck one blow with his sword, even three, even four, and fought right well." Next day, all three were found lying among a heap of slain, stretched stiff and stark side by side on the field of death.

8. Defeat of the French.—The King of France fought as hard as any knight or man-at-arms in the battle. He was twice wounded ; but, when he had had his wound bound up, he remounted his horse and went back into the fight. Nothing, however, could stand against the courage, coolness, and steadiness of the English ; the French army was beaten and broken at every point ; and at length was driven back, and had to retreat in disorder. The sacred banner of France—the Oriflamme, or Flame of Gold—was struck down and nearly captured. A brave French knight rushed in through the crowd that was fighting round it, cut the silken banner from its golden staff with his dagger, wound it round his body, and rode off in safety. The French king was carried off by his friends, almost by force, from the blood-red field. The little company fled to a castle some miles distant and knocked at the gate. " Who is there ?" shouted the warder. " It is the fortune of France !" was the reply. And the keepers opened the gates, and let in the French king, wounded, sad, weary, and almost broken-hearted.

em-barked' , put on board ship.	pre-vi-ous-ly , formerly; before this time.
de-sir'-eth , desires; wishes.	yeo'-men , common soldiers; here it means archers; bowmen.
ran'-som , money paid for the release of a prisoner.	car'-cass-es , dead bodies.
vill'-ains , serving-men.	crit'-i-cal mo'-ment , a turning-point in the fight.
in con-fu'-sion , out of their ranks; disordered.	re-treat' , draw back.
ef-fec'-tive , powerful; doing good work.	

La Hogue (La Oag), a cape in the north-west of Normandy, which overlooks the English Channel.

Genoese cross-bowmen were hired archers employed by the King of France. They came from Genoa, on the coast of the Mediterranean.

Bohemia formerly formed one of the kingdoms of Europe. It is now part of the Austrian empire.

CRECY.—I.

1. What man-at-arms or knight
Of doughty deeds in fight,—
What king, whose dauntless might
Still lives in story,
Deserves such fame as one
Who, when his sight was gone,
Fought till he fell,—King John,
Bohemia's glory?
2. That fatal August day
The French and English lay
Drawn up in dread array,
With bows and lances,
Determined then to try
Which host could bravest die,
Which host would soonest fly,—
England's or France's.

3. The morning light revealed,
 On Crecy's famous field,
 Armed with his spear and shield,
 This fearless foeman,
 Who with his old blind eyes,
 Will for his French allies
 Do battle till he dies,—
 And fly from no man !
4. His bridle-rein he tied
 To a good knight's at each side,
 Among the French to ride,
 That saw astounded
 Who with their foremost prest,
 His shield before his breast,
 His long spear set in rest,—
 The trumpet sounded !
5. Full tilt against their foes
 Where thickest fell the blows,
 And war-cries mingling rose,
 " St George ! " " St Denis ! "
 Driven by the trumpet's blare
 Where most the English dare,
 And where the French despair,—
 He then and there is !

dough'-ty, brave.
 daunt'-less, that cannot be conquered.
 de-serves', is worthy of.
 re-vealed', laid bare.

all-ies', those who side with and fight
 for others.
 a-stound'-ed, amazed.
 blare, blast ; loud noise.

St George, the battle-cry of the English. St George is the patron saint of England.

St Denis, the battle-cry of the French. St Denis is the patron saint of France.

CRECY.—II.

1. Up, down, he rode, and thrust ;
Unhorsed, knights rolled in dust ;
Whom he encounters must
 Go down or fly him :
All round the bloody field
Spears rattle on his shield,
But none can make him yield ;
 Few venture nigh him.
2. Here, there, he rides until
His horse perforce stands still :
He spurs it, but it will
 No longer mind him ;
It cannot stir for fright,
So desperate now the fight,
Death on the left, the right,
 Before, behind him !
3. But this, so blind was he,
The old king could not see ;
And had he seen, pardie !
 His soul delighting
Had faster rained down blows
Upon his puny foes,
And in the dark death-throes
 Had gone out fighting !
4. When the last rout was done,
And when the English won,
They found the brave King John,
 Who fought so lately,

Stone dead,—his old blind eyes
 Uplooking to the skies,
 As he again would rise
 And battle greatly !

5. They bore him to his rest,
 His shield upon his breast,
 Where blazoned was his crest,—
 Three ostrich-feathers ;
 Under in gold were seen
 The royal words, “ Ich dien,”
 “ I serve my land ”—they mean
 Serve in all weathers !

6. E'en so the Black Prince thought,
 Who then at Crecy fought,
 And old John's valour caught,
 And was victorious.
 “ Who serve like him,” quoth he,
 “ Commend themselves to me ;
 Such royal servants be
 For ever glorious ! ”

R. H. STODDARD.

un-horsed', thrown from their horses.
en-count'-ers, meets with.
per-force', by force ; of necessity.
pu'-ny, small and useless.

death'-throes, the pains and struggles
 of the dying.
blaz'-oned, displayed in bright col-
 ours

Three ostrich-feathers. This is now the crest of the English Princes of Wales.

18.—THE SIEGE OF CALAIS.—I.

1347.

1. **The March to Calais.**—After the English army had taken some rest, Edward marched straight upon Calais—"the key of France," as Dover is the "key of England,"—for the purpose of taking it. He sat down with his troops before the town; built for his army a small city of huts—made of wood and thatched with broom—laid out in streets, and furnished with chapels and a regular market-place. The Governor of Calais on his side made ready for a long siege by driving out of the town all "the useless mouths;"



Agincourt and Crecy.

and 1700 poor woe-begone creatures came straggling miserably into the English camp. Edward, kinder than their own countrymen, gave "each of them a hearty dinner and two pieces of silver," for which kindness "many of them prayed heartily for the king." When, however, the siege had gone on for some time, five hundred more poor people were thrust out; but this time the wretched beings were not allowed to pass through the lines of the English army; both ways were closed to the doomed and famishing crowd; they lay down on the ground between the walls of their own town and the lines of the English, and there slowly died of hunger and thirst. Such is war. King Edward's plan for taking the town was not to waste the lives of his soldiers by making attacks upon it, but simply to starve it out.

2. The Challenge.—The poor people of Calais were now nearly reduced to starvation; death stared them daily in the face; and, as often as they could, they sent messages to their king, earnestly praying for help. Philip VI. accordingly brought together the fragments of his army and marched towards the town. Indeed he came so near to it, that the people from their walls could see his banners streaming in the moonlight on the hill of Sangatte.¹ Philip, indeed, sent a challenge to Edward to come out and fight him. Edward replied that he was much obliged by the offer; that he was very well where he was; that he had been there about twelve months; that Philip might have come sooner; and that he had no intention of stirring from his position. So the French king marched off, quietly pocketing this insolent answer; and left his starving subjects to their wretched and inevitable fate.

3. The Governor offers to give up the Town.—It was terrible for the people of Calais when they heard that the French army had disappeared without making any attempt to rescue them. They had eaten up everything—horses and mules, cats and dogs, rats and mice, leather and refuse; and they now saw no hope but in the mercy of the English king. The governor accordingly hauled down the French flag in token of surrender, hoisted the English flag, mounted on the walls, and made signs that he wished to speak with the English nobles. “We are prepared to give up the town,” he said, “the castle, and all our arms and goods, if we may be free to go where we will.” But the English messenger replied: “My lord the king demands that you give yourselves up without

¹ A French corruption of the word Sandgate. In the same way, the French have changed Windmill into Wimille.

any terms whatever: he has resolved to put to death or to ransom whom he will."

fur'-nished, provided; supplied.
strag'-gling, wandering one by one.
fam'-ish-ing, dying from hunger.
frag'-ments, remains; small pieces.
chal'-lenge, an offer of battle.

po-sit'-ion, place; situation.
in-ev'-it-a-ble, that cannot be escaped or avoided.
hoist'-ed, raised. The opposite of *hauled down*.

Key of France. By this is meant that when Calais fell into the hands of an enemy, it opened France to that enemy, or gave him an easy way of attacking France.

19.—THE SIEGE OF CALAIS.—II.

1347.

1. King Edward and Sir Walter de Manny.—Edward was, in fact, very angry, because, not only had he been kept before the gates of the town for about a year, but his fleets and merchant-ships had suffered a good deal from the war-ships of Calais; he had sternly made up his mind, and he would hear of no terms. Then Sir Walter de Manny spoke to him thus: "My lord, you may be doing wrong in being so hard to these men. If you send your own men to your castles and towns, they will not be so ready to go, if they know they are likely to be put to death, after the example you are now setting." Other nobles agreed with Sir Walter; and the king sat and thought a long time. At last he said: "Sir Knights, I will not be alone against you all. Go, Sir Walter, to the men of Calais; and tell the governor that all they can have from me is this: If they will send to me six of their chief burghers, with ropes round their necks, and the keys

of the castle and the town in their hands,—on them I will work my will, and to the others I will grant mercy.”

2. The Great Bell is rung.—Then the governor ordered the great bell of the town to be rung, and summoned all the citizens to the town-hall. When the citizens had assembled, he stood up and told the people what the King of England had said. Then arose a loud weeping and wailing; sobbing and moaning were heard from every part of the room; and even the governor himself could not restrain his tears, but wept most bitterly. Then there was a long silence in the hall—a silence broken only by weeping. At length the richest burgher in the town, one Eustace de St Pierre, rose and said: “Gentlemen and fellow-citizens, sad pity and shame would it be to let so many innocent people die of hunger. I will give myself up. I will be the first, and will willingly go bareheaded, unshod, and with the halter round my neck, to place myself and my life at the mercy of the King of England.” At this many men and women fell down at his feet, and embraced his knees, and wept sorely. Then another honest burgher, John Dayre, rose and said, “I will keep company with my friend Eustace.” And, in fine, four other noble and brave burghers followed this great example.

3. The Sad Procession.—The governor mounted a small pony,—for he was so weak and wasted with hunger that he could hardly stand,—and, followed by a crowd of people, sighing and sobbing, blessing and praising them, he led the six burghers to the gate, where he handed them over to Sir Walter de Manny, the English knight sent to meet them.

4. The Six before the King.—The sad procession went on to the royal tent, where the king stood, with all his

great nobles round him. At sight of the six faithful and brave men, the earls and barons, accustomed as they were to the most horrible sights in war, could not refrain from tears. The king, however, looked fiercely on the men, for he strongly detested the people of Calais. The six knelt before the king and said: "Gentle sir and noble king, we are six burghers of the ancient town



Queen Philippa interceding for Burghers of Calais.

of Calais, and well-known merchants. We bring you the keys of the town and the castle, and we place ourselves at your mercy. If it be your great will, have pity on us of your great nobleness!" But the king sternly gave order that their heads should be at once struck off.

5. Queen Philippa.—Sir Walter and the barons pleaded hard for the poor men; but the king heeded not a word they said—only looked straight in front of him, and made

a sign to the headsman. Then arose Philippa, the loving but warlike queen, who had already, at Neville's Cross, shown her love for the king and the country over which she ruled, and kneeling down before her husband, said: "Gentle lord, since I passed the sea with great peril to come to you, I have asked of you nothing. But now I humbly beg and entreat of you, for the sake of Christ, and for the love of me, have mercy on these six miserable men!" The king stood awhile, silent, and in deep study; and then said: "Ah, dame, I would you had now been in some other place; but I cannot deny you. There! I give them to you. Do your pleasure with them!" And the queen's pleasure was to take them into her chamber, where she had them richly and warmly clothed; and then she gave them a good dinner and six pieces of gold to each; and at length sent them away in safety through the lines of the English host.

mer'-chant-ships, ships employed in carrying goods.

burgh'-ers, inhabitants of a *borough*.

sum'-moned, called.

as-sem'-bled, gathered together.

re-strain', keep back.

pro-ces'-sion, a number of persons in marching order.

re-frain', to keep from doing.

de-test'-ed, hated very much.

heads'-man, an executioner; a person who cuts off heads.

mis'-er-able, unfortunate; unhappy.

20.—RICHARD THE SECOND, CALLED OF BORDEAUX.—I.

1377-1399.—*Reigned 22 years.*

1. Who Richard II. was.—Richard the Second was the only son of the Black Prince, who was the eldest son of Edward III. Richard was only ten years of age when

he came to the throne ; but he was in the direct line of succession. He was very like his great-grandfather, Edward II., in character ; and, unhappily, he had also much the same fate.

2. Richard's Uncles.

—The affairs of the kingdom were, during the minority of the young king, managed by a council of twelve nobles ; and in this council the uncles of the youthful Richard had a great deal to say. They also quarrelled with each other



Richard II.

a great deal. At one time John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, had most power ; at another time it was Thomas, Duke of Gloucester. In spite of the Great Peace, the war with France had begun again ; but no glorious victories or spoils and rich booty were brought home. Instead of that, a great deal of money had to be sent to France, to pay for the war ; and thus a constant drain upon the wealth and resources of this country was going on.

3. The Rising of the Peasants, 1381.—To raise the money for these French wars heavy taxes had to be laid upon the people. One of these taxes was a poll-tax ; and the people everywhere grumbled dreadfully about it, for this tax amounted to three groats or one shilling per head—a very large sum in those times for working people to pay. Everywhere there was grumbling ; everywhere

there were murmurs. In Kent the peasants rose, marched to London, set fire to palaces, killed the nobles, and were only quieted by the king promising them freedom from these taxes, lower rents, and pardon for the evil deeds they had committed.

4. The Leaders of the Peasants.—The chief leader of the Kentish men was a tiler called Wat, who had been a good soldier, and had seen much service in the French wars. Their chief speaker was a priest called John Ball; and he was in the habit of setting the hearts of his hearers on fire by quoting such sayings as these :—

“ When Adam delved and Evé span,
Where was then the gentleman ? ”

The leader of those who rose in Essex was a man called Jack Straw.

5. The Wonderful Parliament, 1388.—The Duke of Gloucester had got the upper hand in the Council, and the power of John of Gaunt had been for some time on the wane. Gloucester, conscious of his strength, called together a Parliament, which was only too ready to do his bidding; and he employed its powers almost solely for the purpose of ruining and putting to death his own personal enemies. A clean sweep was made of the young Richard's friends and favourites—by banishing, by imprisoning, and by beheading. Hence this Parliament became known as “The Wonderful,” or “The Merciless Parliament.”

6. Richard takes the Power into his own Hands, 1389.—One morning, at a meeting of the Council, Richard—who had been thinking a great deal about the affairs of the country and his own position—rose from his chair, and standing in front of the nobles, asked the duke how

old he was. "Your Grace," replied the duke, "is in your twenty-second year." "Then," returned Richard, "I have been longer under guardians than any ward in all my dominions. I think I am now old enough to manage my own affairs. My lords, I thank you for your past services ; but I think I now need them no more."

7. Richard's Wives.—Richard had married an excellent wife, who was called Anne of Bohemia. She was so much beloved and admired by the people of London and the other parts of England that they called her the "Good Queen Anne." But this good queen died ; and in the year 1396 he married Isabel, a daughter of Charles VI. of France, who was known in her adopted country as "The little Queen." He married this lady to put an end to the war with France ; and he made a truce with that country. But the English people did not like what he liked ; they hated France and the French. Richard, on the contrary, grew to be too fond of French ways ; and he began to long in his heart for the time, when, like the King of France, he should be able to do without a Parliament, and to rule the country just as he liked.

min-or'-i-ty, time before a person reaches the age of twenty-one.

drain, a drawing upon.

re-sourc'-es, wealth ; means of raising money.

poll'-tax, a tax levied per head.

com-mit'-ted, done.

til'-er, one who roofs houses with tiles.

con'-scious of his strength, knowing quite well his own power.

mer'-ci-less, without mercy or pity.

ward, a young person looked after by guardians.

truce, a peace.

Essex, one of the three counties of England in the East Anglian plain. It lies on the Thames, opposite to the coast of Kent.

21.—RICHARD THE SECOND, CALLED
OF BORDEAUX.—II.

1377-1399.—*Reigned 22 years.*

1. **Henry Bolingbroke.**—Henry Bolingbroke was the son of the great duke, John of Gaunt, and thus the cousin of the king. Richard feared him very much, and was jealous of his growing power in the country ; and more especially of the fact that he was very popular with the citizens of London. He therefore banished him from England for six years. While Bolingbroke was away, his father, John of Gaunt, died ; and Richard, without hesitation, at once seized upon all the duke's lands, money, and treasures, and refused to let his son Bolingbroke have any share.

2. **Richard in Ireland, 1399.**—In the latter part of Richard's reign, a revolt had taken place in Ireland ; and Richard raised an army and sailed across to that country, taking with him the son of Bolingbroke, a boy called Henry of Monmouth, then only twelve years of age. Young Henry was taken as a hostage for the conduct of his father, whom Richard had good cause to fear. Richard was very successful in putting down the Irish in different parts of the country ; and his arms were carrying everything before them, when the most alarming news reached him from England.

3. **The Landing of Bolingbroke, 1399.**—When Bolingbroke heard that Richard was in Ireland, he at once saw his opportunity, and made haste to sail to England, to see if he could recover his lands and other property. He took with him only two knights, and fifteen men-at-arms ; but on the news of his landing, an army of 60,000

men very rapidly gathered round his banner. He marched straight to London, where the citizens, who had always been fond of Bolingbroke, met him with cries of "Welcome! welcome! long-looked-for Harry! Joy and good-luck go with you! Nothing has gone well with us since you went away!"

4. Richard's Return.—When Richard heard the terrible news, he returned to England as quickly as he could. He landed at Holyhead, in the north of Wales, with an army of 32,000 men; but in a few days they had all quietly stolen away—melted like a snow-wreath in



Meeting of Richard and Henry.

summer. He fled in dismay to Conway Castle; but the news there was no better. Soon after, Richard was betrayed into the hands of Henry by Percy, Earl of Northumberland, the baron who was the right-hand man of Henry Bolingbroke in all his schemes and plans.

5. The Meeting of Richard and Henry.—When the two rival cousins met, Henry was in full armour. He knelt to Richard as his king and lord. "Fair cousin of Lancaster," said the king, lifting his cap, "you are welcome!" "My lord," replied Henry, "I have come

back before you sent for me; but I will tell you the cause. Your people say that, for the space of some twenty years, you have ruled them harshly; now, please God, I will help you to rule them better. "Fair cousin," replied the poor king, "since it pleaseth you, it pleaseth me right well." But Richard was anything but pleased. Lancaster brought the fallen king to London, where he was lodged in the Tower. Soon after, he was formally deposed; and Henry himself was called to the throne by the barons and bishops of the country.

6. Richard's Death, 1399.—Richard was taken to Pontefract¹ Castle. In those days it was for a king or a great lord sometimes but one step from a prison to the grave; and in no long time Richard, who was very much in the way, met the fate of his great-grandfather, Edward II. He was secretly murdered in his prison.

pop'-u-lar, in favour with the people.

hes-i-ta'-tion, stopping to think;
doubt between two courses of
action.

re-volt', a rising against the king.

hos'-tage, a pledge given to the enemy.

dis-may', very great fear.

for'-mal-ly de-posed', deprived of the
throne in the manner thought most
lawful.

Holyhead, a town on Holy Island near Anglesey, from which steam-vessels run to Ireland.

Melted like a snow-wreath, that is, they went away slowly and quietly, but surely and steadily, as snow melts before the sun.

Pontefract, a town in Yorkshire, twenty-four miles south-west of the town of York. The **Castle**, built shortly after the Norman Conquest, was a large and strong building, and stood on a commanding height.

¹ Sometimes called Pomfret.

22.—THE RISING OF THE PEASANTS.—I.

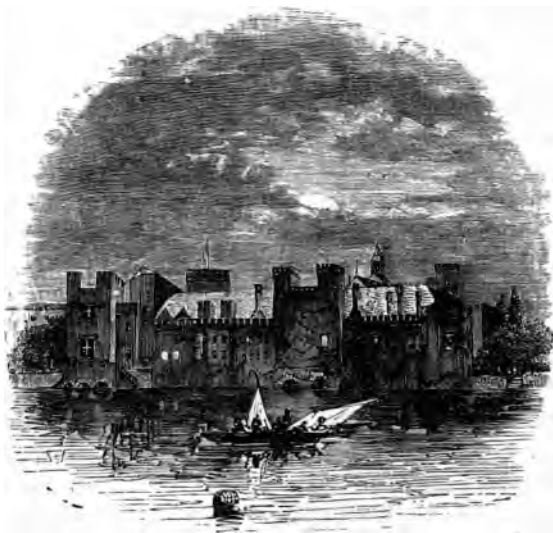
1381.

1. **Discontent.**—In the beginning of the reign of young King Richard II., the serfs and peasants of England were very ill off, very much oppressed, and very unhappy. They belonged to their masters, pretty much as his horses and oxen did—only that he could not sell them without the land; he fed them, and they had to work for him without further pay. They could not remove from one part of the country to another—from a poorer part to a richer part of the land; and if their masters gave any of them leave to betake themselves to the towns and cities to earn some money, they met there with Dutch and Flemish workmen, who were willing to work for even lower wages than they could afford to take. Then, as the last straw, came the hated poll-tax, to sweep away any little savings they had been able to make; and this poll-tax it was that proved to be the spark that kindled the fire, from which a great flame spread all over the south and east of England.

2. **Wat the Tiler.**—In a pretty little valley in Kent, between two gently rising hills, stands the old town of Dartford, about seventeen miles from the city of London. In this town there lived a man called Walter, whose work it was to roof and tile houses and cottages. Hence his neighbours called him Wat Tyler.¹ One day, in the summer of 1381, a collector of taxes entered his house to demand the money for the detested poll-tax. Wat

¹ The difference between the spelling of *tiler*—the common noun—and *Tyler*—the proper noun—may be illustrated by the difference between the spelling of *tailor* and *Taylor*.

was at his work, a few houses off. Suddenly the shrieks of women resounded in his ears; he was startled, and jumped down from the roof he was working on; and he ran with his lathing-staff in his hand into his cottage. There he saw his wife and daughter in tears; his wife cried out that the tax-collector had insulted them; and, in his fury, Tyler struck the man on the head with his staff so terrible a blow that he fell dead upon the floor. The news spread everywhere—it ran like wildfire through the town and then through all the country-side; and the townsmen and villagers of Kent, who felt that Wat's cause was theirs, rose as one man, and made Wat Tyler



Palace of the Savoy.

their leader. John Ball, the priest, preached to them about their courage and their rights; and the poor

ignorant creatures vowed they would make him Archbishop of Canterbury.

3. Riot in London.—The rioters entered London, and fired the Palace of the Savoy, where John of Gaunt lived; but in no single instance did they rob or pillage. They took the jewels and precious stones of the men they disliked, and beat them to powder with hammers, cut the gold and silver plate into small pieces, and made huge bonfires of the furniture. One unhappy man was seen to hide a silver goblet under his jerkin; him they seized, and hurled headlong into the bonfire along with his booty.

4. The Poor Flemings.—They laid violent hands on many of the Flemings and cut off their heads. When they guessed a man to be a Fleming, they asked him to say the words “bread and cheese;” and if there were the smallest sign of foreign accent, he was put to death without mercy. They stopped every one they met in the street. “For whom are you?” was the question put to the person. If the answer was, “For King Richard and the true Commons!” he was set free; if not, he was at once cut down. They broke into the Tower, took out the Archbishop of Canterbury and the King’s Treasurer, and beheaded them on Tower-Hill. In all these proceedings they were not, as they thought, rising against the king; they were only attacking the people whom they believed to be their own enemies and his.

serfs, slaves bound to the soil.
peas’ants, the lower orders of the people.
re-sound’ed, sounded loudly.

in-sult’ed, abused.
jer’kin, a leathern jacket.
vi’o-lent, harsh and unfeeling.
pro-ceed’-ings, goings on.

Dutch, belonging to Holland or the Netherlands.

Flemish, belonging to Flanders, a country which occupied the part now forming the north of France and the south of Belgium.

Fleming, an inhabitant of Flanders.

23.—THE RISING OF THE PEASANTS.—II.

1381.

1. **The Charter.**—The king, who was at that time only a boy of fifteen, rode out with a very few friends to Mile-end—then a suburb in the east of London—and asked the peasants what they wanted. “We will be serfs no longer!” “Rent us land at fourpence an acre!” “We must be free to go to fairs and markets!” “You must not punish us for what we have been doing!” Such were the cries that met Richard’s ears on every side. The young king agreed to do all this, and promised to have charters drawn out granting their requests. He also told them to choose two men from each of their villages to carry home these charters; and he presented banners to the different groups, so that the men, gathering round these, might march quietly off to their own homes. Thirty clerks were engaged; they worked as hard as their pens could travel along the paper, and sat up all night to copy the charters.

2. **Smithfield.**—But Richard had got rid of only the more well-meaning among the rioters; Wat Tyler and his crew were still at Smithfield; and many prisoners—ruffians, robbers, and cut-throats—who had been let loose from the prisons, had joined this body of desperate men. The cry ran through this crowd that the king was not to be trusted: and that they should march on the city and pillage it at once—for most of the good quiet Englishmen from the country had gone away to their own homes. Up to this ugly crowd Richard bravely rode with sixty followers in his train. As soon as Tyler saw them he signed to his men to stand still, while he rode up in front to meet the king. “Seest thou those men here?”

said Wat. "Yes." "They have all sworn to do my bidding." "Very well." At that moment Tyler's eye fell on a squire whom he hated. "Art thou there?" he cried. "Give me thy dagger!" It was given up. "Now, thy sword!" But this was too much. Sir William Walworth, the Mayor of London, enraged at his insolence, dashed forward and struck the ringleader on the neck; another knight ran his sword through his body; and the miserable man fell beating the air with



Death of Wat Tyler.

his hands. A low quick stir of bowmen, a rattle of bows, a rustle of arrows, a settling on the strings; and the heads of more than a thousand cloth-yard shafts are pointed at the king and his company! But the boy-king was not afraid. "Stay where you are!" he cried. And putting spurs to his horse, he rode straight up to the bowmen and cried, "Sirs, what would you? This man was but a traitor. I am Richard your king, and I will also be your leader. Follow me!" And, struck dumb by the presence of mind and bravery of the lad, they unstrung

their bows again, and followed Richard into the fields at Islington. Here the king met Sir Robert Knollys and a thousand men, who wanted to fall upon the rioters and cut them to pieces. This the king would not allow; but he deprived them of the banners he had given them. They at once took to their heels, and ran to hide themselves in the dark nooks and corners of London.

3. After the Rising.—Next day, the king ordered it



Gateway of Old London Bridge.

to be publicly proclaimed that any person found in London without proper business should be seized as a traitor and beheaded. This cleared the city of rioters; and John Ball and Jack Straw, who were found

hiding in an old ruin, were arrested and beheaded, and their heads placed, as a warning to all discontented serfs, upon London Bridge.

re-quest', anything asked.

ban'-ners, flags carried before an army or procession.

des'-per-ate, hopeless; and therefore daring enough to do anything.

in'-so-lence, rudeness; impertinence.

ring'-lead-er, the leader of a riotous body.

de-prived', taken away from.

dis-con-tent'-ed, not pleased with one's lot.

Smithfield formed, in the 12th century, a playground for the citizens of London. In it most of the public executions and burnings of martyrs took place.

Islington, in Richard's time a suburb of London, but now forming part of the town, on the north of the "City." It is two miles north of St Paul's.



Tournament.

THE TOURNEY STOPPED.¹—I.

SCENE.—*Gosford Green, near Coventry.*

Lists set out, and a Throne. Heralds, &c., in attendance.

King Richard.—Marshal, demand of yonder champion
The cause of his arrival here in arms.

Marshal.—In Heaven's name, and the king's, say who
thou art,

And why thou com'st, thus knightly clad in arms :
Against what man thou com'st, and what thy quarrel ?

Norfolk.—My name is Thomas Mowbray, Duke of
Norfolk ;

Who hither come, engagéd by my oath,
Both to defend my loyalty and truth
Against the Duke of Hereford who appeals me,
And prove him traitor to his God and king :
And, as I truly fight, defend me Heaven !

[*Trumpet sounds. Enter BOLINGBROKE
in armour, preceded by a Herald.*

¹ This scene may be read by five pupils, standing up together.

King Richard.—Marshal, step forth, ask yonder knight
in arms,
Both who he is, and why he cometh hither
Thus plated in habiliments of war.

Marshal.—What is thy name? and wherefore com'st
thou hither
Before King Richard in his royal lists?
Against whom comest thou, and what's thy quarrel?

Bolingbroke.—Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby,
Am I; who ready do stand here in arms,
To prove, by Heaven's grace, and mine own valour,
In lists, on Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk,
That he's a traitor, foul and dangerous,
To God of heaven, King Richard, and to me;
And, as I truly fight, defend me Heaven!

Marshal.—On pain of death, no person be so bold
Or daring-hardy, as to touch the lists!

Bolingbroke.—Lord Marshal, let me kiss my sovereign's
hand,
And bow my knee before his majesty;
For Mowbray and myself are like two men
That vow a long and weary pilgrimage;
Then let us take a ceremonious leave,
And loving farewell of our several friends.

Marshal.—The appellant in all duty greets your high-
ness
And craves to kiss your hand, and take his leave.

King Richard.—We will descend and fold him in our
arms.
Cousin of Hereford, as thy cause is right
So be thy fortune in this royal fight!
Order the trial, Marshal, and begin.

Marshal.—Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby,

Receive this lance ; and God defend the right !
Go bear this lance (*to an officer*) to Thomas, Duke of
Norfolk,

Sound trumpets ! and set forward combatants !
—But stay ! The king hath thrown his warder down.

King Richard.—Let these lay by their helmets and
their spears,

And both return back to their chairs again :
Withdraw with us ; and let the trumpets sound
Till we return and tell what we decree. [Pause.
Draw near

And list what with our Council we have done.
For that our kingdom's earth should not be soiled
With that dear blood which it hath fosteréd ;
Therefore, we banish you our territories :
You, cousin Hereford, on pain of death,
Till twice five summers have enrich'd our fields
Shall not regret our fair dominions,
But tread the stranger paths of banishment.

Bolingbroke.—Your will be done ! This must my com-
fort be,—

That sun that warms you here shall shine on me ;
And those his golden beams to you here lent,
Shall point on me, and gild my banishment.

King Richard.—Norfolk, for thee remains a heavier
doom,

Which I with some unwillingness pronounce :
The hopeless word of—never to return
Breathe I against thee—upon pain of life.

Norfolk.—A heavy sentence, my most sovereign liege,
And all unlooked for from your highness' mouth.
The language I have learned these forty years,
My native English, now I must forego :

And now my tongue's use is to me no more
 Than an unstringéd viol or a harp ;
 Or like a cunning instrument cas'd up,
 Or, being open, put into his hands
 That knows no touch to tune the harmony.
 Now must I turn me from my country's light,
 To dwell in solemn shades of endless night. [Exit.

cham'-pi-on, one who fights with an-	clad in armour.
other in single combat.	de-signs', purposes.
loy'-al-ty, faith to a king.	cer-e-mo'-ni-ous, formal ; precise.
ap-peals' me, accuses me, and appeals	ap-pell'-ant, accuser.
to a higher power.	fos'-tered, brought up ; nursed and
plat'-ed in ha-bil'-i-ments of war,	taken care of.

Warder, the truncheon of authority held by the king as president of the combat. *Throwing the warder down* was a signal for the fight to stop.

Viol, a guitar with six strings.

Cunning instrument, one that requires *cunning* or skill to play on it.

THE TOURNEY STOPPED.—II.

King Richard (turning to Gaunt).—Uncle, even in the
 glasses of thine eyes
 I see thy grievéd heart ; thy sad aspéct
 Hath from the number of his banished years
 Pluck'd four away :—Six frozen winters spent,
 Return (*to Bolingbroke*) with welcome home from banish-
 ment.

Bolingbroke (aside).—Four lagging winters, and four
 wanton springs
 End in a word : such is the breath of kings !
Gaunt.—I thank my liege, that, in regard of me,
 He shortens four years of my son's exile :

But little vantage shall I reap thereby ;
 For, ere the six years that he hath to spend,
 Can change their moons, and bring their times about,
 My oil-dried lamp, and time bewasted light,
 Shall be extinct with age, and endless night.

King Richard.—Why, uncle, thou hast many years to live.

Gaunt.—But not a minute, king, that thou canst give :
 Shorten my days thou canst with sullen sorrow,
 And pluck nights from me, but not lend a morrow ;
 Thou canst help time to furrow me with age,
 But stop no wrinkle in his pilgrimage ;
 Thy word is current with him for my death ;
 But, dead, thy kingdom cannot buy my breath.

King Richard.—Cousin, farewell :—and, uncle, bid him so¹ ;
 Six years we banish him, and he shall go.

[*Exit KING RICHARD.*]

Gaunt.—Thy grief is but thy absence for a time.

Bolingbroke.—Joy absent, grief is present for that time.

Gaunt.—What is six winters ? They are quickly gone.

Bolingbroke.—To men in joy ; but grief makes one hour ten.

Gaunt.—Call it a travel that thou tak'st for pleasure.

Bolingbroke.—My heart will sigh when I miscall it so,
 Which finds it an enforced pilgrimage.

Gaunt.—All places that the eye of Heaven visits,
 Are to a wise man ports and happy havens :
 Teach thy necessity to reason thus ;
 There is no virtue like necessity !
 Think not the king did banish thee ;
 But thou, the king : Woe doth the heavier sit,

¹ So = farewell.

Where it perceives it is but faintly borne.
 Go, say—I sent thee forth to purchase honour;
 And not—The king exiled thee: or suppose,
 Devouring pestilence hangs in our air,
 And thou art flying to a fresher clime.

Bolingbroke.—Oh! who can hold a fire¹ in his hand,
 By thinking on the frosty Caucasus?
 Or cloy the hungry edge of appetite,
 By bare imagination of a feast?
 Or wallow naked in December's snow
 By thinking on fantastic summer's heat?
 Oh! no: the apprehension of the good
 Gives but the greater feeling to the worse:
 Fell sorrow's tooth doth never rankle more,
 Than when it bites, but lanceth not the sore. [*Exeunt.*

SHAKESPEARE.

as-péct, look; appearance.

lag'-ging, passing slowly.

wan'-ton, playful.

van'-tage, advantage; gain.

sul'-len sor'-row, sorrow to be borne

alone.

fur'-row me, cut furrows in my brow.

cloy, to glut; stop up.

bare, mere.

fan-tas'-tic, imaginary.

Thy word is current. You have the power to give Time an order for my death.

Buy my breath, that is, buy it back from death; make me live again.

Which finds, when it (my heart) finds.

Pestilence. The Plague or Black Death visited England three times in the course of the fourteenth century.

Caucasus, a range of mountains in Europe stretching from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea.

¹ *Fire*, a dissyllable.

**THE PLANTAGENETS.—HOUSE OF
LANCASTER.**

24.—HENRY THE FOURTH, OR BOLINGBROKE,
CALLED OF LANCASTER.

1399-1413.—Reigned 14 years.

1. **Who Henry IV. was.**—Henry IV. was the eldest son of John of Gaunt, brother of the Black Prince ; and the grandson of Edward the Third. He was therefore the first cousin of Richard II. With him began a new branch of the Plantagenet royal house, which is called in history the **House of Lancaster.**

2. **Rising in Wales.**

—Owen Glendower was a Welsh gentleman, who was descended from Llewellyn, and also—as he believed—from the great British hero King Arthur. He had always been a warm friend and loyal follower of Richard II. Accordingly, when his lawful king was deposed, he gathered together an army, set up the old British standard of “The Dragon,” took the title of Prince of Wales, made a camp upon the heights of Snowdon,



Henry IV.

and kept up a constant warfare during the whole of the reign of Henry IV.

3. War with Scotland, 1402.—Henry, now that he was king, assumed the ancient title of Lord Paramount of Scotland; and, as a practical man and sensible ruler, he did not mean it to be a mere empty title. He accordingly marched into Scotland, and met the Scottish army at **Homildon Hill** in Berwickshire. The Scottish forces were commanded by that “sprightly Scot of Scots,” Earl Archibald Douglas, who, though a brave soldier, was far from being a very skilful general. Instead of placing his



Old Windsor Castle.—Old Windsor Castle stood on a raised plateau, formed by a spur from the chalk downs, about two miles distant from the town of Windsor. William the Conqueror was the king who built the first strong stone buildings on this site. The present castle, which overlooks the town, was begun in the reign of Henry III.

men in a protected position, he made the terrible mistake of drawing them up in a deep and compact square on the open slope of the hill. There the Scots stood, “foolishly motionless,” a broad target for the eager and unerring English bowmen. The English knights and men-at-arms did not stir a step; only the bowmen advanced and let fly a shower of arrows. Another advance—another flight

of arrows ; another advance—another flight,—till in a short time the Scottish host “looked like a huge hedgehog bristling with a thousand shafts.” “Why,” shouted an old Scottish knight—“why do we stay here to be shot like stags upon the hillside, and to have our hands nailed to our lances? Follow me, men, and let us sell our lives as dearly as we can!” But the day was already lost,—and yet not a single English sword had been drawn in the battle ; the victory had fallen to the stout English yeomen. Earl Douglas was himself taken prisoner by the Percies of Northumberland.

4. The Strange Alliance, 1403.—The Percys, who had always been Henry’s warmest friends, at length quarrelled with him ; and they entered into a league with their Scottish prisoner Douglas, and with the Welsh Owen Glendower, to fight against Henry IV., and to drive him from his throne. It was a strange and hitherto unknown alliance of English, Scotch, and Welsh. But Henry lost no time ; he set his army in motion, and met the troops of Harry Hotspur—the eldest son of Earl Percy—at **Shrewsbury**, before the armies of the allies were able to unite. His purpose was to take the three powers one after another, and to fight each separately. Hotspur had with him a large body of archers, whose arrows flew so thick that Henry’s men “fell like leaves after a frosty night.” The battle was going in favour of the Percies, when an arrow from Henry’s army pierced Hotspur’s brain ; and “the fiercest soldier of England” fell dead upon the field. The battle was lost ; it had lasted only three hours ; and Henry was secure upon his throne once more.

5. The Burning of Heretics.—The followers of John Wycliffe, the great translator of the Bible, had grown

greatly in numbers and in influence during the reign of this king. They were called Lollards. Henry induced Parliament to pass a law that any one who opposed the Church should be put to death by burning. It was a most terrible and cruel law; and it was the first time in the history of our country that so base and wicked an enactment was ever thought of.

6. The Death of Henry IV.—All through his reign, Henry had had many troubles, gone through great dangers, and suffered much pain, misery, and anxiety. Shakespeare describes him as passing many a sleepless night in anxious thought—as having “frightened sleep, Nature’s soft nurse,” as envying “the wet sea-boy” who can sleep soundly in a storm “upon the high and giddy mast,” and as knowing with the fulness of the bitterest knowledge how

“Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.”

He was also subject to severe fainting-fits. One day, as he was praying before the tomb of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey, he was seized with one of these fits, and was carried insensible into the nearest chamber. When he opened his eyes and felt a little better, he asked where he was; and the reply was, “In Jerusalem Chamber.” “Yes,” he said, “it is Jerusalem; it was foretold of me that I should die in Jerusalem.” He had always hoped to be able to go on a crusade. He died at the age of forty-six, a worn-out sad-hearted man, weary, old, and grey before his time—a man who had gained a crown and everything he wanted, but whom neither the struggle for power, the accession to the throne, nor gratified ambition, had been able to make happy or contented.

as-sumed', took upon himself.
com-pact', closely pressed together.
tar'-get, an aim ; a mark (sometimes a shield).
un-err'-ing, not missing the mark.
trans-lat'-or, one who changes a book

from one language into another.
in-duced', persuaded.
en-act'-ment, a law.
in-sen'-si-ble, in a fainting state.
am-bit'-ion, a striving after some high or far-off object.

Llewellyn, the last native Prince of Wales. He was taken and executed by Edward I.

Shrewsbury, the county town of Shropshire ; it stands on the upper waters of the Severn.

25.—HENRY THE FIFTH, CALLED OF MONMOUTH.

1413-1422.—*Reigned 9 years.*

1. Who Henry V. was.—Henry the Fifth was the eldest son of Henry the Fourth—the last king. He was but a young man—only twenty-four years of age—when his father died, and he succeeded to the throne. He was a man of strong and simple character, always spoke the truth, was honest and straightforward, and utterly without fear. He was so swift a runner that he could catch a deer or a fox on foot ; and he wore in his helmet the brush of a fox which he had once caught in this way.



Henry V.

2. The Hundred Years' War again.—Henry the Fifth once more brought up the English claim to the crown of France. He could hardly hope to be king of all France as well as of England ; but it is most likely that his main purpose in making war on that country was to

give his barons plenty of work, and thus keep them from contriving plots and plans against himself.

3. The First Invasion, 1415.—Henry landed his army at the foot of the walls of **Harfleur**, a small town in the west of Normandy. After taking this town, he marched northward through France to Calais. The leaders of the French army sent him word that they meant to fight him. "As God will," replied Henry, very quietly. "Where can we meet you?" asked the French herald. "I am going," said the king, "from my good town of Harfleur to my good town of Calais; and as I do not think of stopping in any town or fortress by the way, you will find me at any time on the highroad." The two armies met at **Agincourt**, and the small and weary but steadfast army of the English completely routed the French army, and slew about eleven thousand men.

4. The Second Invasion, 1417.—Once more did Henry invade France; and, in this second invasion, he laid siege to the wealthy city of **Rouen**. He drew round it a careful and close blockade; and it was impossible for the French to send food to the garrison or to the people of the city. The governor, as usual, resolved to rid himself of the "useless mouths;" and he accordingly drove out at the point of the sword twelve thousand men, women, and children. But Henry, in time of war, had no heart or pity; and he resolved to employ the fearful weapon of famine and misery to subdue the place. He accordingly refused to allow these poor people to pass his lines; and there, on the ground between his army and the walls of their native town, the pale, withered host lay, and died slowly of hunger and thirst on the ground they had sat down upon. Soon after, the town yielded to the English king.

5. The Great Peace, 1420.—The war still went on; but at last the French grew tired and begged for peace. The chief men on both sides met; the terms of peace were agreed upon; and one of these terms was that Henry should marry Charles the Sixth's daughter, Kate. It was furthermore agreed that Henry should be made Regent of France, for Charles was too ill to rule; and that he should be crowned King of France when Charles died. This was called the Great Peace. But, like the Great Peace of Edward III., it did not last very long.

6. The Third Invasion.—The eldest son of Charles VI., who was called the Dolphin or the Dauphin, would have nothing to do with this agreement. He maintained that he was the rightful King of France; and that no other person whatever had the smallest right to sit upon the throne. In a short time the French raised an army to help the Dauphin; and Henry was marching to meet this army, when he was suddenly struck by severe illness.

7. The Death of Henry V., 1422.—His friends stood round his bed. He felt that he was dying. "I am come," he said, "to the end of a short life; but it has been full of glory. I never feared death in battle; I do not fear it now, as I lie here upon my bed. God's will be done!" The priests read to him the 51st Psalm. When they came to the verse, "Build thou the walls of Jerusalem!" he said, "Yes, I thought of doing that. I wished to give peace to France; and then to have gone on crusade and freed the holy city of Jerusalem!" Then he sank back on his pillow. He fell asleep, and in sleep he died: on a quiet wave of sleep the strong soul of the brave stern young English king passed gently into the other world. He was only thirty-four. He has been

called "the noblest member of the house of Lancaster : a man who, in everything he said or did, was a king and an Englishman."

suc-ceed'-ed to the throne, became king.

con-triv'-ing, thinking out ; forming.

her'-ald, a person sent with messages between armies.

rout'-ed, defeated.

gar'-ri-son, soldiers guarding a castle or fort.

host, a great number of people ; usually applied to an army.

main-tained', held ; was of opinion.

Harfleur, a town in Normandy, on the north-west coast of France.

Agincourt, a small village in the north-west of France.

Crusades, holy wars undertaken to rescue Jerusalem and Palestine from the hands of the Saracens, or of the Turks.

26.—THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.—I.

October 25, 1415.

1. The March.—The march from Harfleur to Calais was a very slow and difficult piece of work ; and, on the way, the English soldiers suffered much from rains by day and frosts by night. They were almost always cold, weary, and wet. Their food was all eaten up, and there was little but bread and wine to be had. Henry took care that his soldiers should not drink too much wine—for he knew that men with muddy brains would not fight well ; and he forbade them to fill their leather bottles. He also forbade them to plunder. "When kindness and cruelty play for a kingdom," said Henry, "the gentler gamester is the soonest winner."

2. The Meeting.—Henry tried to cross the Somme at the point where his grandfather had crossed before the battle of Crecy—White-Pebble Ford, called in French Blanchetâque. But word was brought to him by his

scouts that it was very strongly guarded. He therefore turned a different way, crossed the river by another ford, and, soon after, came up with the French army. It was far larger than his own; some say there were eight times, others say ten times, as many fighting-men on the French side as on the English. A Welshman was sent to the king with the news of the French approach. "How many did you see?" asked Henry. "Enough to be killed, enough to be made prisoners, and enough to run



Meeting of Henry V. and Lord de Halley before the battle of Agincourt.

away!" replied the gay Welshman. One of the English leaders uttered a wish for ten thousand of the good Englishmen "who at home do no work to-day." "No," said the king, "not one man more. There are plenty of us to be killed; and, if we gain the victory, the greater honour to each." Or, as Shakespeare puts it:—

"No, my fair cousin,
If we are marked to die, we are enough
To do our country loss; and if to live,
The fewer men the greater share of honour."

3. The Position.—The French leader posted his army on a narrow plain, where they were jammed in between two woods, and where his men had to stand thirty-two deep. Henry also posted his men between woods; but the English ranks were far from being so crowded—they were only four deep. The woods, thickets, and hedges on each side of his troops were a guard and a defence to him—they kept the small numbers of the English from being completely surrounded by the French army. The English archers were, as usual, the main strength of the army. They were drawn up in the form of a wedge; and each man carried a stake shod with iron at both ends. This they stuck into the ground in front of them; and thus a kind of iron hedge defended them from being ridden down by the heavily armed horses of the French knights and barons.

4. The Two Sides.—The contrast between the two sides was strong enough. On the French side crowds of noble knights and haughty barons, glittering armour of steel and gold, a very rainbow of colours, forests of lances, crowds of banners, and all the pomp and pride of glorious war. On the English side there were men wretched and ragged, wasted by disease, and thin and pale with hunger; archers “in head-pieces of boiled leather;” often without these; with axes and hatchets hung at their belts—“which gave them the look of carpenters.”

game'-ster, one who plays or gambles.

ap-proach', the coming near.

ut-tered', spoke.

form of a wedge, thin and pointed in front, but broadening out behind.

de-fend'-ed, protected; saved.

glit'-ter-ing, gleaming or glancing in the sun.

head'-piec-es, anything worn on the head; helmets.

Welshman, an inhabitant of Wales; properly means a *foreigner*.

Crecy, a village a little to the north of Abbeville, in the north of France.

27.—THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.—II.

October 25, 1415.

1. Before the Battle.—The French had spent the night before the battle in drinking, singing, and playing at dice for the ransoms of the English prisoners they expected to take. The English gave up the hours of sleep to putting fresh strings on their bows, cleaning their swords, riveting their armour; praying, confessing, and making their wills. In the morning, Henry mounted a little grey horse and rode along the lines. His fresh looks, open cheerful countenance, clear bright eyes, and friendly smile, put courage into the hearts of all his men. He spoke everywhere to his men, and called them his “brothers, friends, and countrymen.” “We are few,” he said, “but God may give the day into our hands. Be brave and steady, and fight with all your might!” And the answer—prompt, hearty, and strong—rose from every part of his little line, “God give you good life, sir, and victory over all your enemies!” The good old Sir Thomas Erpingham, the English marshal of the host, gave the signal for battle by throwing his staff into the air and shouting, “Now strike!” and the king passed the word along the line, “Banners advance!” For one moment every man knelt in prayer, and rose with a small piece of earth in his mouth, to remind him that of dust he came and into dust would he return. Then the trumpets sounded, and the English archers let fly a blinding sleet of arrows.

2 The Battle.—Flight after flight of arrows came thick as hail upon the French; and it was impossible for them to remain standing and quiet under these mur-

derous showers. Twelve hundred knights and men-at-arms tried to spur forward, with their heads bent; but they had been standing for some time up to the horses' knees in thick clay. They could only come on step by step; and at every step the arrows emptied saddle after saddle. Only one hundred and sixty horsemen were able to reach the English archers; and they did very little harm. The field of battle was a mere swamp of sticky mud churned up by the horses' hoofs. It was the archers who did the work of the day; four-fifths of those who were slain fell under the deadly stroke of the English bowmen. Many of the horses, stuck full of arrows, grew mad with pain, plunged about, and threw into disorder their own army. In another part of the field, eighteen French knights, who had sworn a solemn oath to shear the crown from the crest of Henry, spurred hard and straight at him. They were met by a rush of brave Welsh and English, and Henry was safe, while the eighteen French knights lay stretched upon the field. The French horse soon became a helpless, heaving, struggling mass.

3. The End. — The English bowmen now assumed another character: they slung their bows on their backs, rushed from behind their stakes, ran in among the plunging horses, and with their heavy axes cut down the French knights and men-at-arms at their will and pleasure. "It was," says an old writer, "as if they were hammering on anvils." Horrible writhing heaps of dying and gory masses of dead men lay piled up to the height of six feet; and the English climbed to the top of these and butchered the French on the other side with sword and hatchet and loaded mace. The battle had lasted only three hours. But eleven thousand Frenchmen—more than the whole English army—lay dead upon the field

of battle; and among them were seven French princes of the royal family, eight thousand gentlemen, and one hundred and twenty great nobles, who fought under their own banners. Three things had given the victory into the hands of the English: their own archers; the crowded masses of the French; and the terrible mud of the battle-field. One French writer says: "The French army could not move either to fight or to fly. None could lift their arms to fight the enemy save those who were in the front rank." Never in the history of the world was so great a victory gained by so small a number over so large an army.

ran'-som, money paid for the release of a prisoner.

riv'-et-ing, joining together by small bolts.

coun'-ten-ance, the face.

prompt, ready.

ban'-ner, a square flag; a standard round which soldiers gather in battle.

swamp, wet, spongy land.

dis-or'-der, want of order; confusion.

shear, cut.

gor'-y, covered with blood.

Assumed another character, that is, they were no longer archers, but fought as common foot-soldiers.

Mace, a large and heavy club of metal, often studded with steel spikes.

BEFORE AGINCOURT; OR, THE EVE OF ST CRISPIN.

O! now, who will behold

The royal captain of this ruin'd band,
Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,
Let him cry—Praise and glory on his head!
For forth he goes, and visits all his host,
Bids them good-morrow with a modest smile,
And calls them brothers, friends, and countrymen.
Upon his royal face there is no note
How dread an army hath enrounded him;

Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour 10
 Unto the weary and all-watchéd night :
 But freshly looks, and overbears attaint
 With cheerful semblance and sweet majesty ;
 That every wretch, pining and pale before,
 Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks.—
 A largess universal, like the sun,
 His liberal eye doth give to every one. 17

SHAKESPEARE.

note, sign of.
 en-round'-ed, surrounded.

sem'-blance, appearance.
 lar-gess', free gift.

THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

1. Fair stood the wind for France,
 When we our sails advance,
 Nor now to prove our chance
 Longer will tarry ;
 But, putting to the main
 At Caux, the mouth of Seine,
 With all his martial train,
 Landed King Harry.

2. And taking many a fort,
 Furnished in royal sort,
 Marcheth towards Agincourt,
 In happy hour.
 Skirmishing day by day
 With those that stopped his way,
 Where the French general lay
 With all his power.

3. Then, turning to his men,
Quoth our brave Henry then,
"Though we be one to ten,
 Be not amazed ;
Well have ye all begun :
Battles so bravely won,
Have ever to the sun
 By fame been raised !
4. "And for myself," quoth he,
"This my full rest shall be :
England, ne'er mourn for me,
 Nor more esteem me.
Victor I will remain,
Or on this earth lie slain,
Never shall she sustain
 Loss to redeem me !"
5. They now to fight are gone,
Armour on armour shone,
Drum now to drum did groan,
 To hear was wonder.
That with the cries they make
The very earth did shake,
Trumpet to trumpet spake,
 Thunder to thunder.
6. Well it thine age became,
O nobler Erpinghame !
Which did the signal aim
 To our hid forces ;
When from a meadow by,
Like a storm suddenly,
The English archery
 Struck the French horses.

7. With Spanish yew so strong,
 Arrows a cloth-yard long,
 That like as serpents stung,
 Piercing the wither.
 None from his fellow starts,
 But playing many parts,
 And like true English hearts,
 Stuck close together.
8. This while our noble King,
 His broadsword brandishing,
 Down the French host did ding
 As to o'erwhelm it ;
 And many a deep wound lent
 His arms with blood besprent,
 And many a cruel dent
 Bruiséd his helmet.
9. Upon St Crispin's Day,
 Fought was this noble fray,
 Which fame did not delay
 To England to carry.
 Oh, when shall Englishmen
 With such acts fill a pen,
 Or England see again
 Such a King Harry !

MICHAEL DRAYTON (*Abridged*).

mar'-tial, warlike.

in roy'-al sort, in a way fit for a king.

skir'-mish, an irregular fight between
 two small parties.

a-maz'-ed, terrified.

quoth, said.

dent, dint ; a small hollow made by a blow on metal.

es-teem', to set a high value on ; to
 honour.

bran'-dish-ing, whirling about in air.

o'er-whelm', overthrow.

with blood be-sprent', besprinkled
 with blood.

Caux (Co), a small province in the N.W. of France, in which the town of Harfleur stands.

Yew, an evergreen tree from which the best bows were made.

28.—HENRY THE SIXTH, CALLED OF WINDSOR.—I.

1422-1461.—*Reigned 39 years.*

EVENTS IN FRANCE.

1. **The Infant King.**—The poor mad Charles VI. of France (he was grandfather of Henry VI.) died of grief a few weeks after the death of his son-in-law, whom he had both loved and trusted. He was buried on the very day that the body of Henry V. was laid in Westminster Abbey; and at the two graves—the grave of his grandfather in France and the grave of his father in England—the infant Henry was proclaimed King of England and France. But the Dauphin of France, who now took the title of Charles the Seventh, never for one moment admitted his claim, or the claim of any other person, to the French throne.



Henry VI.

2. **The Managers of the Two Kingdoms.**—John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford—an uncle of the baby-king—was appointed regent in France, and was sent to rule the English possessions in that country. This great duke lived mostly in the strong castle of Rouen; and all

France north of the river Loire was under the rule of the English, whilst the large division of France south of that river stood by their own king, Charles VII. **Humphrey Plantagenet**, Duke of Gloucester—another uncle—was appointed regent in England; and to him was given the title of “**Protector of the Realm of England.**”

3. The Maid of Orleans.—The siege of Orleans was at this time going on; and the French troops in the city were beginning to be very hard pressed, when there appeared, in the month of April 1429, a most strange deliverer—a deliverer utterly unlooked for by both sides—whose presence turned the scale in favour of the French, and at length raised the siege. This was **Joan of Arc**, the **Maid of Orleans**, who put new heart into the French troops, and whose banner was followed by victory wherever she went.

4. Charles VII. is crowned.—The tide of fortune had turned. Town after town fell into the hands of the French; fort after fort was taken; triumph after triumph followed—for the English believed that Joan was a witch, and could not be beaten—until at length the French army entered Rheims; and Charles VII. was crowned King of France in the old and wonted place—the cathedral of that ancient city. It was only there that the kings of France could be rightly crowned; and Charles now at last felt firmly seated on his throne.

5. Only Calais left.—The Duke of Bedford, who had been a wise and firm ruler, died at Rouen in the year 1435; but the war went on as before. It went on; but the results told always more and more against the English. At the end of the reign of Henry the Fifth, the English held about two-thirds of France; by the year 1453—only thirty years after—nothing of all our French

possessions remained to us except the "English town of Calais." This was the end of the Hundred Years' War. And all that England finally got out of the spending of so much blood, out of so much strife, so much planning, so much labour, and so much money, was an empty title and a petty seaport.

pro-claimed', named publicly.

claim, right; demand.

ap-point'-ed, chosen; made.

re'-gent, a person who rules for another.

Pro-tect'-or, one who takes care of.

de-liv'-er-er, one who saves, or sets free.

witch, a woman who is thought to have some supernatural power.

wont'-ed, usual; accustomed.

re-mained', were left.

pet'-ty, small.

Dauphin, a name given to the eldest son of the French kings. It is the same as *dolphin*, and arose from the crest of the lords of Dauphiné.

Loire is the river on which Orleans stands. It flows westwards almost through the centre of France, and falls into the Bay of Biscay.

Empty title. The sovereigns of England kept the title of Kings of France for a long time, even after they had no longer any possessions in France.

29.—JOAN OF ARC, OR THE MAID OF ORLEANS.—I.

1. Where Joan was born.—On the borders of Lorraine, a district which lies on the eastern edge of France, stands the pretty little village of Domrémy. In a small cottage in that village dwelt an honest labourer called D'Arc, and with him three sons and a daughter. The girl's name was Joan; and she is generally known in history as Joan of Arc. She was born in the beginning of the fifteenth century—in the year 1412. Just outside the village where this little girl was born begin the mighty woods which stretch mile upon mile towards Switzerland, away up the left bank of the famous river

Rhine. Joan loved the forest; she loved to wander among the trees; the birds and beasts did not fear her; they learned to know and to love her; they came delighted at her call. She was a good girl, simple and pleasant in her ways, loving and kind to her father and mother, and the loved companion and playmate of her three brothers. She was taught, as the custom then was, to sew and to spin, but not to read and write.

2. The Hundred Years' War.—Though Joan lived in the far east of France, she heard many stories about war, battles, and soldiers; indeed, her little cottage was not out of the course of the terrible war which was then raging between France and England. She saw poor soldiers, wounded and bleeding, limp through the little village; and now and then she would take one into her father's cottage, place him in her bed, and nurse him through his painful illness. Her heart bled at the sight of so much misery; she was always thinking of her beautiful but unhappy country; and she was in the habit of saying with a sigh to her brothers and neighbours that she "had pity on the fair realm of France."

3. Joan's Visions.—When she was about thirteen years of age, she began to see visions and to hear voices. One day a flood of blinding light surrounded her, and she thought she heard a voice that said, "Joan, be a good child, and be constant at church; for the kingdom of heaven hath chosen thee to restore France." In this vision she thought it was the Archangel Michael who had appeared. "Voices," as she called them, "were ever in her ears—voices she could not get away from—calling her to go and save France." Three years later, she had another vision, and a voice bade her go and fight for the Dauphin. "Why dost thou tarry? God has great pity

on the people of France!" "Sir," replied the peasant-girl, "I am but a poor maiden; I know not how to ride to the wars; I know not how to lead rough men-at-arms." The poor girl wept bitterly, and shuddered at the danger and the labour that lay before her. But the Voices still kept sounding in her ears, "What God commands, that thou must fearlessly do!"

4. Joan must go.—Her mother begged and prayed her not to go to the wars; her father swore he would drown her if she tried: the priest of the village refused to help



Joan of Arc recognises the Dauphin.

her. "I *must* go to the King of France"—she meant the Dauphin—"even if I wear my limbs to the very knees. I had far rather rest and spin by the side of my mother; this is no work of my choosing, but the Lord wills it." At length a captain in the war offered to take her to the king.

5. Joan meets the Dauphin.—A plan had been devised to find out if Joan could recognise the king with-

out being told. She was led into a hall blazing with fifty torches, and filled with three hundred nobles in rich and splendid dresses. One of these nobles was seated upon the throne; Charles the Dauphin stood apart, and at some distance from the throne, among a crowd of noblemen. But Joan, though she had never seen him before in her life, went straight up to him, and knelt before him. "I am not the king, Joan," said the Dauphin, and pointed to the courtier on the throne. "Nay, gentle prince," she replied, "it is you who are the king, and no other! I am Joan the maid. I bring you a message! I am sent to say that you shall be crowned King of France in your city of Rheims."

6. Joan raises the Siege of Orleans.—The town of Orleans was hard pressed by the English; was indeed in the horrors of famine, and just on the point of giving itself up. Joan put herself at the head of the force which was sent to its relief. She was at this time seventeen, tall, finely formed, lithe and active, and so strong that she could stay from dawn till dusk on horseback without food or drink. She was mounted on a milk-white charger, clad from head to foot in shining white armour, and she carried a great white banner adorned with the lilies of France. As she passed through the villages on her way to Orleans, she was a strange and lovely sight. The French took new heart; and every soldier believed that he now carried victory on the point of his sword. She told her French soldiers, "As soon as my banner touches the walls, you shall enter the fort!" Led by her, the French drove back the English, broke into Orleans, and raised the siege. The English believed that she was a witch, and that they had now to fight against the unseen powers of evil; but the French be-

lieved in Joan's divine mission, and cheerfully followed the noble Maid of Orleans.

7. The Dauphin is crowned at Rheims.—Triumph after triumph for the French—defeat after defeat for the English; town after town yielded to the summons of the Maid; and at length Joan had fought her way up to the gates of Rheims. There the Dauphin was crowned Charles the Seventh of France; and the reign of Henry VI. in that country was nearly at an end. The English, however, brought their boy-king to Paris two years after, and crowned him there. At the coronation of the French king, Joan stood beside him, with her white banner in her hand. When she saw the crown upon the head of her own true king, she fell at his feet, kissed them, and burst into tears. "O gentle king," she cried, "the pleasure of God is done! Let me go back to my father and mother and keep the sheep again, as I was wont to do. They will be so glad to see me home again!" The French king and court, however, had found out how useful she was, and would not let her go.

cus'-tom, habit.

limp, to halt; to walk lamely.

re-store', set up again.

shud'-dered, shook from fear.

com-mands', orders.

de-vised', planned.

re-cog-nise', to know; discover.

court'-ier, one who lives at the court of a king or queen.

fam'-ine, great want of food; hunger.

lithe, supple.

sum'-mons, call.

Divine mission, a message or duty given her from God.

30.—JOAN OF ARC, OR THE MAID OF ORLEANS.—II.

1. Joan is taken Prisoner.—Two years after, Joan was engaged in fighting for the relief of another town which was being besieged by the English and their ally,

the Duke of Burgundy. She threw herself through the besieging forces into the town. But one morning, as she was leading the garrison out to attack the English troops, a strong force compelled her soldiers to fall back ; she covered and directed the retreat ; and was the last to re-enter the town. No ! Just as the last soldier had gained the other side of the castle moat, the drawbridge was suddenly lifted, and she found herself alone, and in the hands of the enemy. An archer caught her foot and pulled her from the saddle ; and the poor girl was a prisoner. She was carried to Rouen, where the little English king, Henry VI., was then staying.

2. Joan is tried as a Witch.—The English were terribly afraid of her. She was kept in an iron cage, and fastened in an upright posture by chains on her neck, wrists, and ancles ; but at the request of the Duchess of Bedford, who pitied the young girl, they took her out of this cage, and gave her better treatment. She was now only chained by her feet to a log of wood by day, and to her bed by night. The duchess sent ladies to visit her, and to speak kindly to her ; but the priests, who thought her a witch, were resolved to bring her to trial. She was examined no less than fifteen times. They brought her before a council, and asked her hundreds of questions. One was—"Why did you hold up your banner before the altar at Rheims?" "It had had all the trouble of the fighting," replied Joan, smilingly, "it was right that it should witness the success and the honour." Then she added : "I carried my banner instead of a lance, that I might not slay any one : I have killed nobody." But in spite of her frankness, innocence, and noble defence, she was sentenced to die at the stake as a person who had practised witchcraft.

3. Joan is burnt to Death.—The poor girl tore her hair when she heard the sentence. “I had seven times rather they would behead me,” she kept saying. On the morning of her execution she was drawn on a cart to the public square of Rouen; and when she saw the cruel bishop who had presided at the trial, she cried, “Bishop, I die through you!” When she had mounted the pile, and stood upon the fagots, she looked round for the last time upon the houses of Rouen, as they stood out sharp and clear in the strong sunlight,—upon the crowds of staring men and women,—upon the steel-clad soldiers and the gowned priests, and exclaimed, “Ah Rouen! Rouen! I greatly fear that you will one day suffer for my death!” A good monk was with her, and stood still to comfort her even after the fagots had been lighted. ‘Get down quickly,” cried Joan, “but stay near enough for me to see the cross!” The flame wrapped her in its fiery folds; but from the midst of the flames which wreathed snake-like around her, came again and again the cry: “Yes! my voices were of God!” Her head sank upon her breast; a last cry of “Jesus!” escaped from her lips: and the soul of the brave Maid of France had departed from amidst her bitter and cruel enemies.

4. After the Execution.—“We are lost,” muttered an English soldier as the dense crowd broke up; “we have burned a saint!” The base and selfish King of France stirred no finger to save her; and her poor father died of a broken heart. A statue now stands on the spot where she was burned to death.

re-lief, the bringing of help to.
pos-ture, position.
re-solved, agreed; determined.
frank-ness, plain speaking.

witch'-craft, the *craft* or practices of a witch.
pre-sid'-ed, ruled; was judge.
fag'-ots, small bundles of sticks.

The **Moat** was a deep and broad ditch filled with water, which always surrounded a castle or fort, and often a country-house. It was crossed by the **drawbridge**, which could be raised or lowered in somewhat the same manner as a canal-bridge now is.

31.—HENRY THE SIXTH, CALLED OF WINDSOR.—II.

1422-1461.—*Reigned 39 years.*

AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND.

1. **Henry's Wife.**—Henry had married a French lady, Margaret of Anjou. She was a very able woman, and much stronger in mind than her husband. Henry had grown up to be a good, gentle, meek, and religious man ; but he was sadly wanting in strength of will. For a long time he was merely a nobody ; and the queen it was who in reality ruled the kingdom.

2. **Jack Cade, 1450.**—The country was not well ruled ; the poor peasants were in a state of great misery ; and trouble and discontent prevailed almost everywhere. In Kent, the people rose under the leadership of **Jack Cade**, a soldier who had seen a good deal of fighting in the French wars, and who gave himself out to be young Mortimer, the true heir to the English crown. He marched upon London at the head of an army of twenty thousand men. He and his men did almost as much harm as Wat Tyler had done. At last his army broke up and melted away ; and he himself was pursued, captured, and put to death by the Sheriff of Kent.

3. **The Wars of the Roses.**—**Richard Plantagenet**, Duke of York, was the grandson of Edmund, also Duke of York, who was the second youngest son of Edward

III. But, through his mother, he was descended from Edward's third son ; whereas Henry's claim to the throne came through the fourth son only—that is, through John of Gaunt. Many people therefore looked upon the Duke of York as the rightful heir to the English crown. In 1454, Henry was very ill—had, in fact, lost his reason ; and the Duke of York was named **Protector**. The year after, Henry recovered, and dismissed York, who thereupon took up arms against him. The country now rapidly divided and fell into two parties—the **Yorkists**, who were on the side of Richard, and the **Lancastrians**, who maintained the cause of the king. The badge of the Yorkists was a white rose ; the badge of the Lancastrians was a red rose ; and the wars between the two parties are always spoken of as the **Wars of the Roses**. These wars lasted for about thirty years—from the year 1455 to the year 1485.

4. **The Heads of the Two Parties.**—The head and also the leader of the Yorkist party was the Duke of York ; the leader of the Lancastrian party was John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, a man of royal blood, and descended from John of Gaunt. The English barons were glad enough to have a chance of fighting again. They used to take delight in marching through and plundering France, and in selling their French prisoners : this pleasure was no longer within their power, and they were therefore more than eager to turn their arms against each other. The Wars of the Roses lasted thirty years, though the actual fighting covered a space of no more than two years ; and about one-half of the nobles of England fell in the bloody battles that were fought in these terrible and useless wars.

dis-con-tent', uneasiness.

cap'-tured, taken prisoner.

dis-missed', sent away.

main-tained', stood by and upheld.

plun'-dered, laid waste ; pillaged.

de-scent'-ed, sprung from.

badge, a mark or sign by which one is known.

de-light', pleasure.

Mortimer. The Mortimers were descended from Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III.

Sheriff, the manager of the law affairs of a *shire* or county.

Lancastrians. The party of Henry VI. called themselves **Lancastrians**, because Henry was descended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

32.—HENRY THE SIXTH, CALLED OF WINDSOR.—III.

1422-1461.—*Reigned 39 years.*

AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND.

1. Four Battles.—The first battle in the Wars of the Roses took place in 1455, near the city of **St Albans**, in Hertfordshire. In this battle the Lancastrians were defeated—their leader, Somerset, was killed ; and King Henry was taken prisoner. The second battle was fought four years after—in 1459—at **Blore Heath**, in Staffordshire ; and there, too, the Yorkists gained the victory. The third battle was fought at **Northampton**, in the year 1460 ; and in this battle the poor half-witted king was taken prisoner by the leader of the Yorkist army, the Earl of Warwick. The **Battle of Wakefield**—the fourth battle—was fought in the same year, and the Duke of York was among the slain. Lord Clifford, the “black-faced Lord,” as he was called, cut off his head, fixed it on a pole, and brought it to Queen Margaret. “See here, madam,” he cried, “here is your king’s ransom !—your war is done !”

2. Edward of York.—The Duke of York left behind

him three sons—Edward, George, and Richard. Edward was a young man of twenty years of age—an able man, strong, brave, fierce, and wilful. When he heard of his father's death, he was at Gloucester; but he at once marched north-west with his friends and their army, and met and defeated the Lancastrian forces at **Mortimer's Cross** in Herefordshire. In this battle **Owen Tudor** was killed. Now Owen Tudor had married Queen Katharine or Kate, the widow of Henry the Fifth, and the daughter of the mad King of France; and we must take careful note of him, as he was the ancestor of a line of kings and queens who were afterwards to sit upon the English throne.

3. Henry is deposed.—The young Edward marched straight to London, where Queen Margaret and the Lancastrians were very unpopular, and where he himself was very much liked. The citizens of London welcomed him with open arms; shouts and hurrahs filled the streets through which he passed; and he was publicly proclaimed in the city as their king, under the title of **Edward the Fourth**. At the same time, Henry was declared to be no longer King of England.

4. Towton Moor, 1461.—But, though the south had embraced the Yorkist side, Edward had still to put down the north, which stood faithful to the cause of Henry; indeed he had more than half the kingdom to conquer. So without loss of time he marched into Yorkshire, met the Lancastrians on Palm-Sunday at **Towton Moor**—half-way between York and Leeds—and there, in the middle of a snowstorm, fought the bloodiest battle of the whole war. The Lancastrians were completely defeated; no quarter was given; and nearly forty thousand corpses lay dead in hideous patches of blood upon the snow-clad

field. Henry VI., with his wife and little boy, escaped to Scotland; and Edward returned to London, to be crowned in Westminster Abbey. The House of York was now victorious; the White Rose had overcome the Red Rose; and there was peace in the land once more.

an'-ces-tor, forefather; a person from whom a family is descended.
de-posed', put off the throne.
un-pop'-u-lar, not in favour with the people.

de-clared', given out publicly.
em-braced', taken up; adopted.
con'-quer, to bring under; subdue.
hid'-eous (yus), ugly; ghastly.
o-ver-come', conquered.

No quarter—that is, no mercy was shown. When an enemy surrendered and asked for mercy, he was generally taken to the *quarters* or lodging of his conqueror, and there kept in safety until his ransom had been paid.

Wakefield, a town in Yorkshire, south from Leeds.

THE PLANTAGENETS.—HOUSE OF YORK.

33.—EDWARD THE FOURTH, CALLED OF YORK.—I.

1461-1483.—*Reigned 22 years.*

1. Who Edward IV. was.—Edward the Fourth was the eldest son of that Duke of York who was slain at the battle of Wakefield Green. He was only twenty when he was called to the throne. With him begins the reign of the **House of York**. But though he had won the crown by hard fighting, he had still much hard fighting to go through before he should be able to keep it.

2. Edward marries a Commoner.—Edward fell in love with and married a lady who was the widow of a gentleman named Sir John Grey. Her maiden name had

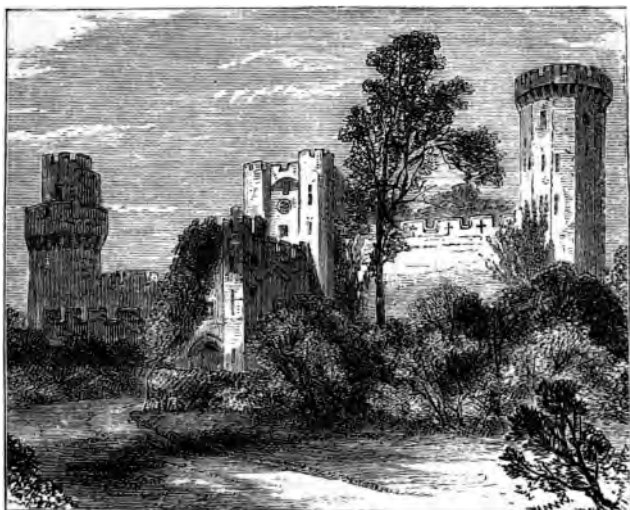
been Elizabeth Woodville. This marriage, though popular with the English people, displeased many of the great nobles. Most of all, it displeased the Earl of Warwick, by far the most powerful noble in the land. From his great power, and the success of whatever party he sided with, he was generally called **Warwick the King-maker**; and he indeed it was to whom Edward owed his seat upon the throne of England.



Edward IV.

3. The Earl of Warwick.—Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, was the greatest and richest nobleman in all the realm; and he was in some respects more powerful than the king himself. He was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Captain-General of Calais, the key of France; Captain of Dover, the key of England; Warden of the Western Marches, Warden of the Scottish Marches, Lord Chamberlain of the Court, and Lord High Steward of the king's palaces. Thus his great power faced, as it were, all the enemies of England—the French, the Scotch, and the Welsh; and it was felt both within and without the kingdom. He had thirty thousand retainers of his own, living at his different castles; and when he came to London to attend Parliament, he had a train of six hundred armed men dressed in his own livery. In the kitchen of his castle at Kenilworth a huge pot was always on the fire; and any man who pleased could come into the kitchen, stick a fork into one of the pieces of meat in the pot, and take it away with him. At his house in London six oxen were eaten at a breakfast. His two daughters, Isabel and Anne, were the greatest heiresses in the kingdom. Now

the marriage of Edward with Lady Grey had the effect of bringing a flood of Woodvilles and Greys to the Court; and these Woodvilles and Greys filled a great number of places and offices, and became very rich and powerful. Warwick, therefore, had less to give away to his friends, and was thus less powerful than formerly; he was very angry, quarrelled with Edward, and fled to France.



Warwick Castle.

4. Warwick in France.—The great earl took with him his two daughters and his son-in-law. This son-in-law was George, Duke of Clarence, a member of the Yorkist royal family, who had married Isabel. When in France, Warwick made friends with Queen Margaret, married his second daughter Anne to Prince Edward of Lancaster, the son of Margaret and Henry VI., and became the leader of the party of the Red Rose. He now returned

to England, and raised a large force so suddenly that Edward had to flee for his life. He had indeed barely time to ride to the coast—he had no time to take anything with him; he got into a ship that was sailing for Flanders, and had to pay for his passage with his fur-lined gown.

5. King Henry on the Throne again.—King Henry had been in the Tower nine years—living a quiet, contented, and settled life—when one morning he was astonished by the entrance of his old enemy, the great Earl of Warwick, who knelt before him and begged him to come forth, and once more to take his seat upon the throne.

dis-please', to make angry; to annoy.
war'-den, the same word as *guardian*.
re-tain'-ers, followers; dependants.
liv'-er-y, the dress or uniform worn by servants to show to what master they belonged. (A suit of clothes

was de-liver-ed to them every year; hence the word *livery*.)
heir'-ess, feminine of *heir*; a person who inherits anything on the death of the owner.
as-ton'-ished, surprised.

Warwick the King-maker. It was by his help that Edward became king. He afterwards caused Edward to leave England and replaced Henry VI. on the throne.

The Duke of Clarence was a brother of Edward IV.



Warder.

34.—EDWARD THE FOURTH, CALLED OF YORK.—II.

1461-1483.—*Reigned 22 years.*

1. **Edward IV. comes back from France, 1471.**—But Edward had lost neither heart nor hope. He gathered together a small army in France ; and, with his brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., he landed at **Ravenspur**, in Yorkshire. Now this was the very place where, seventy-two years before, Henry Bolingbroke had landed—and on exactly the same errand. The English rose in Edward's favour. He marched south ; met the Red Rose army at **Barnet Heath** : the Lancastrians were utterly defeated, and Warwick himself was slain. Edward now swept west with his army, and found himself face to face with Queen Margaret and her troops at **Tewkesbury**, in Gloucestershire. Once more there was a bloody battle, and once more the Lancastrians were defeated. Prince Edward of Lancaster was taken prisoner, and, it is said, was murdered in cold blood after the battle by the brothers of the king. For the time the power of the Red Rose was utterly broken ; poor old Henry VI. was taken back to the Tower, where he soon after died, or, as some say, was killed by the murderous Duke of Gloucester with his own hand.

2. **Death of Clarence.**—The Duke of Clarence, the second brother of the king, had hoped at one time to come to the throne by the help of Warwick the King-maker ; and the king, his brother, had, for this and other reasons, always been jealous of him. A word dropped in haste by Clarence was carried to the king's ear, and Clarence was sent to the Tower. There he was put to death. It is

said that he was drowned in a butt of wine ; but it is more likely that the wine set before him at table was poisoned. A murder in those times was thought little of by great personages ; the chief thing was first to make sure of it, and then to take care that no one should know.

3. Caxton and the Printing-Press.—The one claim that Edward the Fourth has to our respect is that he helped and encouraged **William Caxton**, our first English printer. The art of printing had been invented in Germany, and Caxton brought it over to England with him. The first book which



Caxton's Printing-Press.

he printed in England was 'The Game and Play of the Chess.' It was printed in 1474 ; and this date is one of the great landmarks in the history of English civilisation. His sign was a "red pole" ; and under this sign he worked for many a year, both as translator and as printer. The king looked upon the printing-press as a "pretty toy" ; he did not know that it was a mighty engine that

was destined to be stronger and to do more for the people of England than all her cross-bows and cannon, or, indeed, all her kings and Parliaments put together.

4. Death of Edward, 1483.—Edward had grown very stout, very unhealthy, and at length quite feeble both in mind and body. A fit of anger against the King of France made him really ill; he took to bed, grew worse and worse, and never rose from it again. He died in the year 1483. He left his two little boys to the care of the Greys and the Woodvilles; for he was afraid of intrusting them to his dark-minded brother the Duke of Gloucester.

5. Social Progress.—The Wars of the Roses broke the power of the barons of England, and gave the death-blow to the system of **Feudalism**. But they did not hurt the commerce and industry of England. One-half of the nobles lost their lives in the battles; and it is said that about fourteen hundred persons of high rank were put to death for treason. Letters were, in this reign, for the first time carried between London and Edinburgh. Horsemen were stationed at distances of twenty miles from each other; and thus a letter took only four days to reach Edinburgh. They are now sent by rail in less than nine hours.

er'-rand, message; purpose.

ut'-ter-ly, completely.

butt, a large barrel or cask.

in-vent'-ed, found out; discovered.

civ-il-i-sa'-tion, the change from a rude and uneducated to an edu-

cated state.

trans-la'-tor, one who changes books from one language into another.

des'-tined, fixed; appointed.

in-trust'-ing, giving into one's care.

in'-dus-try, trade; labour.

Barnet Heath, near the town of Barnet, in the south of Hertfordshire, eleven miles north of London.

Feudalism, the system by which those who held land were bound to fight for the king, or for the overlords, from whom they held the land.

35.—EDWARD THE FIFTH.

April 9–June 26, 1483.—Reigned 11 weeks and 1 day.

1. **Who Edward V. was.**—Edward the Fifth was the eldest son of Edward the Fourth. He was only thirteen years of age when he began to reign, if he can be said ever to have reigned at all; for he was never crowned, and never had any real power. His uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, met him on his way to London, seized him, and arrested his relations on the mother's side. Shortly after he beheaded all these relations without any pretence or form of trial. He also managed his own party in such a way as to induce his friends in Parliament to name him **Lord Protector of the Realm**.



Edward V.

2. **Richard, Duke of Gloucester.**—Richard had the nickname of **Crook-back**, because he had one shoulder higher than the other. He was a short, slight man, with his left arm withered; but, for all that, he was very strong, and active in all knightly exercises. In spite of his shape he was very handsome, with dark eyes and a brow of fine outline and great power. Besides, he had a sweet voice and winning speech, and manners so gracious and pleasing that he easily attracted men and women. Shakespeare makes him "halt and misshapen," and tells us that the very dogs barked at him for being so ugly; but this language is much too strong, and goes a good deal beyond the facts.

3. **The Queen alarmed.**—When Elizabeth Woodville,

the widowed queen of Edward the Fourth, heard that her eldest son had fallen into the hands of his uncle, she was terribly alarmed, and fled with her second boy and five daughters to the shelter of the Broad Sanctuary at Westminster. But the Archbishop of Canterbury, who sincerely believed in the good intentions of Richard, came and talked with her, and persuaded her to let her second son join his brother. She accordingly gave him up; and the two boys were placed in the Tower. "Farewell, mine own sweet son," said the tender queen; "God send you good keeping! Let me kiss you once before you go, for God knoweth if we shall ever kiss together again."

4. Richard is offered the Crown.—As soon as both boys were in his hands, Richard found a friend who was willing to declare to the people of London that young Edward was not the rightful heir to his father's throne; and the reason given was, that the father of the young prince had been previously engaged to another lady, and had therefore no right to marry Lady Grey. Parliament offered Richard the crown; Richard pretended at first that he did not wish to take it, and that he had no desire to be king; but all along in his secret mind he had resolved that he and no other should be King of England. So the little Edward V. was never placed upon the throne—was never crowned; and the short story of his so-called reign is the story of a throneless and crownless king.

ar-rest'-ed, seized and taken prisoner.

in-duce', to cause to do.

pre-tence', a sham.

al-armed', terrified.

at-tract'-ed, drew to him and made

his friends.

mis-shap'-en, badly *shaped*; deformed.

in-ten'-tions, purposes; plans.

per-suad'-ed, got her to consent.

se'-cret, hidden.

Broad Sanctuary. A sanctuary was a place to which criminals could flee for refuge. The Broad Sanctuary was a wide space of ground, very thickly built over, which lay round Westminster Abbey.

36.—RICHARD THE THIRD, CALLED CROOK-BACK.—I.

1483-1485.—*Reigned 2 years.*

1. **Who Richard III. was.**—Richard the Third was the youngest brother of Edward the Fourth; and therefore uncle to the little boy whom he had supplanted. He was the same Duke of Gloucester who had stabbed young Prince Edward of Lancaster after the bloody battle of Tewkesbury; and many people believed that he had himself gone to the Tower and with his own hands murdered the feeble-minded Henry VI. in cold blood.



Richard III.

2. **Richard III. is crowned.**—

Richard and his wife, Anne Neville, the daughter of Warwick the King-maker, and the widow of Edward of Lancaster, were crowned at Westminster. The two little sons of Edward IV. had been ordered to attend the coronation; and robes were got ready for them to appear in, on that important day. But the boys were not present.

3. **The Princes in the Tower.**—Where were they? Nothing was heard of them for nine years. No one seemed to know anything about them. Little by little it came out that two ruffians had been sent by Richard to the Tower to put them to death. The two gentle boys lay asleep, locked in each other's arms. The hired murderers smothered them with the pillows of their bed. "So," says an old chronicler, "were the sons of King Edward put to silence." And yet Richard had been left guardian to these two boys.

4. **A Royal Progress.** — Soon after he was crowned, Richard made what was called a “royal progress” through the midland and northern counties. He was everywhere received with loud and even hearty welcome; for the people wanted a king who could rule, not a boy who knew and understood nothing, and who was under the care of guardians and protectors. Money was in many places offered him without his asking for it; but in the most winning and gracious way he constantly refused it. “I would far rather,” he said, “have the hearts of my subjects than their money.”

5. **Discontent.**—But all was not so fair or so happy in the land as it looked. Richard’s chief friend, the Duke of Buckingham, began to turn against him after the murder of the two little boys; and many other persons hated the new king for the same good reason. There was also a strong party in the nation against him; and this party was anxious to see **Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond**, on the throne. Richard himself had little peace in his mind. He had waded through blood and the slaughter of his relations to a throne; but, when he had reached that high place, he did not find it the easy and comfortable seat he had expected. Long waking at nights; no sleep; care and misery; starting up out of bed and running about his chamber,—these were some of the marks shown by Richard of a troubled mind, of a conscience that could find no rest.

6. **Henry Tudor.**—**Henry Tudor**, the son of Margaret Beaufort (who was the great-granddaughter of John of Gaunt), came of royal lines on the side both of his father and his mother; and to strengthen his claims to the throne, his friends proposed to marry him to Elizabeth Plantagenet, the eldest daughter of Edward the Fourth

and Elizabeth Woodville. In this way would the Red Rose and the White Rose be for ever united : and there would thus be rest for the troubled realm of England ; for Tudor himself came, as we have seen, of the house of Lancaster.

7. The Fate of Buckingham.—The new party, which sided with Henry Tudor, was joined by the Duke of Buckingham, who promised to bring over his retainers to fight upon their side. But Richard was too quick for him. One thousand pounds in money—a sum at least equal to twelve thousand pounds nowadays—was set upon his head ; and this large fortune—for a large fortune it was in the fifteenth century—proved too much for the fidelity of one of his retainers, who betrayed him into the hands of Richard. No trial was held, no interview granted ; he was hurried off to the block without delay, and his head rolled upon the greensward.

8. Death of the Prince of Wales.—Exactly one year after the death of Edward IV., Richard lost his only child by death ; and this was another blow to his peace. His wife, Anne Neville, could not overcome this sorrow ; she wasted away with grief, and soon followed her little boy to the grave. And now Richard—childless and wifeless—was left utterly alone ; left in the company of a conscience that was always looking back with fear and anguish upon the deeds of his past life.

sup-plant'-ed, driven from his rights.
im-port'-ant, of great note or import.
ruf'-fi-ans, persons who are ready to commit crimes.
smoth'-ered, choked.
chron'-i-cler, one who relates events that are passing.

gra'-cious, full of grace ; kind and pleasant.
slaugh'-ter, murder.
com'-fort-a-ble, easy and pleasant.
pro-posed', offered.
in'-ter-view, meeting.

Duke of Buckingham. This was Henry, the second Duke. He was descended from John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III.

37.—RICHARD THE THIRD, CALLED CROOK-BACK.—II.

1483-1485.—*Reigned 2 years.*

1. **Richmond invades England.**—Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, had fled to France, after the murder of the Duke of Buckingham. But when word was sent him that the time had come, he set sail from Brittany, and though beaten back by a storm, set sail again, and landed at Milford Haven in Wales, on the 9th of August 1485. The Welsh rose in his favour, for his father had been a Welshman; and, to please his Welsh friends, he adopted as his banner the ancient British standard of the “Red Dragon.” The two armies met on the 22d of August, at a point not far from **Market Bosworth**, a small town in Leicestershire.

2. **The Night before the Battle of Bosworth.**—The sleep of Richard on the night before the battle was uneasy and broken: tossings and turnings all night—fearful dreams that shook his troubled soul—visions of his murdered victims—their shrieks in his ears,—these thoughts and fancied sights prevented him from sleeping. Young Prince Edward of Lancaster—that “shadow with bright hair dabbled in blood;” Henry the Sixth; the Duke of Clarence; the two murdered princes; his friend Buckingham,—all these personages, and more, passed before his inward eye. The ghost of Buckingham, Shakespeare tells us, whispered in his ear:—

“God and good angels fight on Richmond’s side,
And Richard falls in height of all his pride.”

It was impossible to sleep; he rose and walked about among the tents of his army. He found a sentinel asleep on his post, and stabbed him to the heart where he lay. Re-

turning to his tent, he told his servants of his dreams and of the fate of the sleeping sentinel. "I found him asleep," he said grimly, "and have left him as I found him."

3. The Battle of Bosworth, 1485.—In the morning King Richard dressed himself in splendid armour, placed a gold crown upon his helmet, mounted a white charger, rode among his men, spoke cheerfully to them, and drew them up in order of battle. The number of men engaged—compared with the size of modern armies—was extremely small. Richard had less than twelve thousand men, and on the other side there were still fewer. Never was so great a battle—a battle so great in its results—fought with so small a number of troops. It was the last of the many battles of the Plantagenets. His old friend, Lord Stanley, kept aloof from Richard, and no one knew how he would act; but in the middle of the battle he made up his mind, and joined his seven thousand men with the six thousand of the Earl of Richmond's. This decided the day; and a friend of Richard's offered him a swift and strong horse, and urged him to flee. "Never!" cried Richard; "not one foot will I stir so long as there is breath in my body. Here I end my battles or my life! Here will I die or reign King of England!" He put spurs to his horse, drove right at Henry Tudor, and nearly cut him down. Blow upon blow showered down from his sturdy arm, and, with every blow he dealt, the shout of "Treason! Treason!" broke from his lips. Prodigies of valour were performed on his side. His standard-bearer had both his legs cut off, but still grasped and waved his standard as he fell dying; and Richard, seeing that all was over, struck into the thickest of the fight, and fell fighting like a lion at bay.

4. Richmond is crowned King.—The little gold crown



The Crowning of Richmond on the Field of Battle.

which Richard had worn on his helmet was found lying beneath a hawthorn bush, dented and battered with the strokes that had fallen so thick upon it. It was brought to Lord Stanley, who set it upon the head of Henry Tudor of Richmond, amid loud shouts from all parts of the field of "God save King Harry!" The rising ground on which Richmond stood received the name of Crown Hill; and Henry took as his badge the "**Crown in the Hawthorn Bush.**"

5. The Last of the Plantagenets.—The corpse of Richard was found covered with blood and mire, and pierced with many wounds. It was stripped of its armour, had a halter put about the neck, and was thrown dangling across a horse, "like a hog or a calf," says the old story-teller, and in this way carried to the Greyfriars' Church at Leicester. And this was the last of King Richard—the last of the Plantagenets.

6. Richard's Government.—Richard had given to Parliament the old powers which had been taken from it, or which had been allowed to fall into disuse in the reign of Edward the Fourth; and this Parliament of Richard's passed many good laws. Among other good things, it made all "benevolences" illegal; and it established "free trade" in books—that is, it allowed any merchant or traveller to bring printed or written books from the Continent and to sell them in England.

vic'-tim, one who suffers.

fan'-ci-éd, imagined.

pre-vent'-ed, kept from; hindered.

dab'-bled, spotted over.

sen'-tin-el, a guard placed to give

warning of the coming of an enemy.

il-le'-gal, contrary to the law.

char'-ger, war-horse.

show'-er-ed, fell thick, like a shower of rain or hail.

stur'-dy, strong; powerful.

bat'-tered, marked by blows; dented.

hal'-ter, a noose or rope made of hemp.

Milford Haven, an opening in Pembrokeshire, in Wales; one of the largest and best natural harbours in the world.

THE HOUSE OF TUDOR.**38.—HENRY THE SEVENTH, CALLED HENRY
TUDOR OF RICHMOND.—I.****1485-1509.—Reigned 24 years.**

1. Who Henry VII. was.—Henry the Seventh, as we have already seen, was the grandson of a Welsh gentle-



Henry VII.

man named Owen Tudor, and Kate, the daughter of Charles VI. of France. Kate had been previously married to Henry V., and Owen Tudor was her second husband. Henry's father was called Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond; and his mother was Margaret Beaufort, who herself belonged to a royal line, as the great - granddaughter

of John of Gaunt. He was thus a Lancastrian by descent. One of the first things he did upon coming to the throne was to throw into the Tower the young Earl of Warwick, son of the Duke of Clarence, then a boy of fifteen. Now Warwick was by birth the true heir to the throne; and he was a Yorkist.

2. Henry's Wife.—Henry had promised to marry the

Princess Elizabeth of York, the eldest daughter of Edward IV., so as to unite the two parties of the Red Rose and the White Rose ; and in return for this, Parliament settled the crown of England in his own person and in his heirs for ever—"and in none other." When all this had been agreed upon and done, and not before, he married the Princess Elizabeth. Thus were the two rival Roses at length united in the realm of England.

3. Edward Plantagenet, rightly Lambert Simnel.—Henry had many enemies both at home and abroad, and plots against his life and throne continued to be laid. The chief encourager of most of these plots was Margaret, Duchess of Burgundy, the eldest sister of Edward IV. Margaret hated Henry with all her heart and soul and mind.—In the spring of the year 1487, there appeared in Ireland a young man who gave out that he was Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, the son of the Duke of Clarence, and that he had escaped from the Tower. He was in reality the son of a baker of Oxford ; and his true name was Lambert Simnel.

4. Simnel's Success.—He got on so well in Ireland, and so many people believed in him, that he was at length crowned in Dublin by the archbishop, under the title of Edward the Sixth. Here was success ! The son of a baker crowned King of England ! Henry took the real earl out of the Tower, set him on a horse, and made him ride through the streets of London, that every one might see him and know who he was. But the Duchess Margaret urged two great lords to take up the cause of the pretender,—gave them money and troops. They sailed to England, and, with the false Edward VI. at their head, marched through the country into Nottinghamshire. Henry met them at a place called **Stoke**, and defeated

them with great slaughter. The two great lords were killed on the field of battle; Simnel was taken prisoner; and to show that Henry had no fear of him, he was sent to be a turnspit in the royal kitchen. "He turned a broach that had worn a crown;" and, by dint of good conduct, at length rose to the post of royal falconer, or keeper of his Majesty's hawks.

5. The Money-making King.—Henry hated the Yorkists—was always afraid and jealous of the power of the rich barons; and one of his chief aims in life was to put these men down, to weaken them, and to take away their power for ever. Another of his aims was to rule the kingdom, if he possibly could, without Parliament. A third aim—and not at all the least important—was to make money.

6. How Henry made Money.—When a rich man broke a law, Henry, instead of punishing him, sold him a pardon. He brought back also the plan of "benevolences," which Edward IV. had invented, but which Richard III., in his new zeal for good laws, had put down. He pretended that he was going to make war on the King of France, and raised large sums by benevolences for this purpose. But he did not make war; he only sold a peace. The King of France bought him off with a purse of £149,000, and Henry's troops returned quietly to England. Henry thus pocketed two large sums—the money given him by the country to fit out an army and a fleet, and the money he extorted from the French king. Thus this great financial genius made his crown pay, and managed to turn the throne of England into a thriving shop.

7. Morton's Fork.—Henry's chief adviser was a kindred spirit to himself—Cardinal Morton, who had so clever a way of getting money out of rich men, that it

was generally spoken of in England as "Morton's Fork." If Morton heard that a nobleman or gentleman lived in splendid style, in a large house and with a great array of servants, he would say quietly to him: "I see you are a very rich man; I am glad to see you so well off; it is plain that you can afford to give the king a good round sum of money." But if the nobleman or gentleman lived very modestly, in a small house, and with a small number of servants, then he gave him the other prong of his "fork," and would say to him: "You are a most careful and saving man, sir; I congratulate you; I am glad to see you take so much care of your property. You must have saved a great deal, and no doubt you can well afford to give the king a good round sum of money."

8. Empson and Dudley's Mills.—But Henry had other ways and means. The chief aids to his powers and habits of grasping and hoarding were two unprincipled lawyers, called Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley. If a man were lucky enough to escape Morton's "fork," he was pretty sure of being carefully ground at one time or another in "Empson and Dudley's Mills."

ri'-val, opposing; vying with each other.

en-cour'-ag-er, a helper on.

urged, advised strongly.

pre-ten'-der, one who makes a claim; often a *false* claim.

turn'-spit, one who turns the spits on which roasts are hung.

fal'-con-er, one who has charge of the *falcons* or hawks.

ex-tor'-ted, got by force.

fin-an'-cial ge'-ni-us, one who has a great turn for making money.

kin'-dred spir'-it, a man whose feelings were *akin* to his own.

mod'-est-ly, in a quiet and humble way.

con-grat'-u-late, to wish a person joy.

un-prin'-ci-pled, without any principles or truths to guide their actions by.

39.—HENRY THE SEVENTH, CALLED HENRY
TUDOR OF RICHMOND.—II.

1485-1509.—*Reigned 24 years.*

1. Richard Plantagenet, rightly Perkin Warbeck.—

There once more appeared, and again in Ireland, a pretender to the crown, who called himself Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. Again, too, was the pretender assisted by the Duchess of Burgundy, who called him the "White Rose of England." He gave himself out as the young Duke of York, the second son of Edward the Fourth; and he told those who believed in him that his life had been spared at the time when his elder brother was put to death in the Tower. James the Fourth of Scotland, who was afterwards to be Henry's son-in-law, so thoroughly believed in this new Plantagenet, that he took up his cause, and gave him a kinswoman of his own in marriage. Warbeck landed with a strong force in Cornwall; but as soon as he heard of the approach of Henry and his army, he took fright, mounted a fleet horse, and fled to the altar of an abbey in the New Forest. Here he was taken and afterwards thrown into the Tower. In this prison he was allowed to see and to spend his time with the Earl of Warwick, a youth of weak mind, and so ignorant that he did not know one bird or beast from another; and with him he began to plot and plan once more. Both were found out, and put upon their trial for high treason. Warwick was beheaded within the Tower; Warbeck was taken in a cart to Tyburn Gate, and there hanged and quartered.

2. Two Great Marriages—(i) The Spanish Marriage.

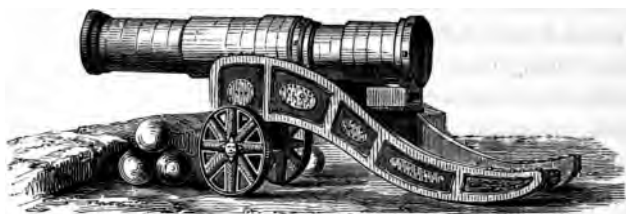
—Henry wished much to strengthen his throne by marry-

ing his sons and daughters to rich and royal persons. His eldest son was called Arthur, after the great British hero, King Arthur of the Round Table. This son he married, at the early age of fifteen, to Katharine of Arragon, the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain—great and powerful sovereigns, and the friends and patrons of the great discoverer of America, Christopher Columbus. The young Prince Arthur died five months after the wedding; and Henry, who was in great terror that he would be obliged to return half of the dowry of the Spanish princess, betrothed the young girl-widow to his second son, then a boy of only thirteen, who afterwards became Henry VIII.

3. (ii) The Scottish Marriage.—The second great marriage which Henry brought about in his family was the marriage of his eldest daughter Margaret. Her he wedded to the then King of Scotland, James the Fourth. We must take careful note of this marriage; because, as we shall soon see, we owe to it the union of the two crowns of England and Scotland. For the English heirs to the English crown died out; and when the great Queen Elizabeth was dead, an heir had to be looked for in Scotland; and this heir was in fact the great-grandson of Margaret Tudor. Margaret Tudor married James IV. in the year 1503; and in 1603, exactly one hundred years after, her descendant, James the Sixth of Scotland, became James the First of England.

4. Henry's Cannon.—Henry not only took good care always to have plenty of money; he was also careful to keep in his service a large number of cannon. Before gunpowder and guns were invented, a great baron could easily raise a revolt and make war upon his king. He had only to call; and the yeomen took down their bows,

the knights sharpened their swords and buckled on their armour; and in a few days an army was in the field against the throne. But armour was useless when a bullet could go through it; and bows and arrows were powerless against cannon. The king, moreover, had another source of power in the fact that there was only



Ancient Cannon.

one set of cannon—one train of artillery in the kingdom; and *that* belonged to the Crown. Thus it happened that all military power was centred in the king—and that only the king could make war. This increased the power of the Crown; this broke the power of the barons; this was the ruin of the Feudal System.

5. Henry's Government.—The country had grown sick and tired of the Wars of the Roses when Henry came to the throne; and he gave the English people the two things they wanted and needed most—peace and security. They wanted peace to work in; and they wanted security for the results of their labour. The population of England was in Henry's time only three millions; that is, only three-fourths of the population of London at the present date. The two cities of London and Westminster numbered only 60,000 inhabitants between them, or less than half of the population of the town of Leicester in our day. The road between these two cities was a country

road ; and by the side of it flowed the silvery Thames. At the present day it is called the Strand—one of the most crowded, perhaps the most crowded street in Europe ; and the Thames is no longer silvery.

6. Henry's Death, 1509.—Henry the Seventh died after reigning nearly a quarter of a century. His rule was on the whole useful to the country ; it helped workers and encouraged work ; but he himself was neither loved nor admired. He had always shown himself to be harsh, greedy, and grasping ; and no one mourned very much for him after he was dead.

as-sist'-ed, helped.

quar'-tered, cut up into four pieces.

pa'-tron, a powerful person who protects a less powerful one.

dow'-ry, marriage portion, or money given with a bride in marriage.

be-trothed', engaged to be married.

de-scend'-ant, one who has sprung from.

train of ar-til'-ler-y, a set of cannon, with movable stores of powder and shot.

se-cur'-i-ty, state of being safe ; pledge of safety.

Arthur, an old British king who became ruler of Britain in 516 A.D. He instituted the order of the Knights of the Round Table. He died in 542.

Aragon, once a large kingdom, now a province in the north-east of Spain, bounded on the north by the Pyrenees.

Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492.

40.—HENRY THE EIGHTH.—I.

1509-1547.—*Reigned 38 years.*

1. Who Henry VIII. was.—Arthur, Prince of Wales, the eldest son of Henry VII., had died soon after his marriage with Katharine, and during the lifetime of his father. Henry was the next eldest son ; and he came to

the throne under the title of Henry the Eighth. He had been brought up for the Church ; his father had meant to make him Archbishop of Canterbury ; and he had read a great many books about religion and religious things. But he was also very great in all out-door sports. He



Henry VIII.

could take a longer leap than any one of his subjects ; and he could hit the bull's-eye with his arrow oftener than any of his companions. He was tall, well built, handsome, broad-shouldered ; and he had pleasant, winning, popular manners. Everybody liked him ; and the young Bluff King Hal was a favourite wherever he went.

2. Katharine of Arragon.—Henry married the widow of his brother Arthur. She was about three years older than he ; and this marriage did not prove to be a very happy one for either of them. They had only one child who lived past infancy—a daughter called Mary—who became afterwards queen ; all their other children died while they were still infants ; and this was a great grief both to father and mother.

3. Henry VIII's Government.—Henry was only eighteen years of age when he came to the throne ; but he was quite old enough to have a will of his own. In fact, in the art of getting his own way and of carrying out

his own purposes, he was perhaps the cleverest and the strongest man in the whole of England. To please his people, he at once reversed the policy of his father; he flung Empson and Dudley into the Tower, and brought them out only to cut off their heads with the fatal axe. Henry joined his father-in-law Ferdinand in attacking France; landed an army near Calais, and fought a battle which is generally called the "Battle of the Spurs." In fact, the French, seized with panic at the first onset, turned and fled; and the battle was won with spurs, not with spears.

4. Flodden Field, 1513.—The French Court thought, as usual, that the best way to get rid of the English was to give the hint to the Scotch to make a raid into England. Shakespeare makes King Henry V. say:—

" For you shall read that my great-grandfather
Never went with his forces into France
But that the Scot on his unfurnished kingdom
Came pouring, like the tide into a breach."

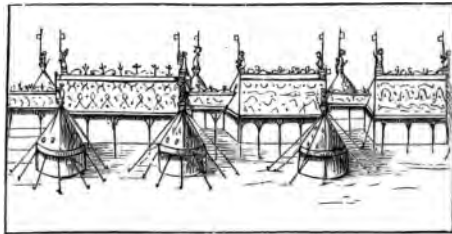
The Queen of France accordingly sent James IV. a ring, a glove, and a loving message that he would kindly break a lance for her sake. James wished for nothing better; and at once marched south into England. But the English were quite ready for him; and he was met at **Flodden Hill** by the Earl of Surrey with a strong army. The Scotch held the ridge of the hill; but they were so ill advised as to leave that strong ground of vantage; they marched down into the plain, and were hemmed in on all sides by the masses of the English troops. Hardly a man escaped. The body of James IV. was found next day nearly hacked to pieces; and ten thousand Scottish men lay dead upon the ground. The flower of the nation fell on that fatal field; and there was not a noble house in

the whole country but had to lament the loss of its head or of some member of the family. Some families lost all their sons. "The flowers of the forest" were "all wede away"—were cut down in the prime of their strength, beauty, and manhood. This battle of Flodden was fought while Henry was away in France; and, soon after, Henry made peace with the King of France and returned to England.

5. **Wolsey.**—Henry's chief adviser during the first part of his reign was a priest named Wolsey. **Thomas Wolsey** was the son of a butcher in Ipswich. He entered the Church, rose from one office to another, and at length came to be known as the ablest man in all England. At the early age of fourteen he had taken the degree of B.A. at Oxford, and was known there as the Boy-Bachelor. Henry made him Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor of the kingdom; the Pope made him a Cardinal and afterwards a Legate. The dearest and strongest wish of his heart was to be Pope himself. All the power of the English crown was his; he had the whole of England, as it were, in his hands; he wished the whole of Christendom to be in his hands also. His style of living was on the grandest scale. His household was as splendid as the household of the king; his head-cook wore a dress of satin and velvet; eight hundred nobles, knights, and servants lived in his house; and he kept up a more than princely state. English nobles of the highest rank served the cardinal on their knees. He had two great palaces—one called Hampton Court, and the other York Place, but now known as Whitehall. All the business of the country passed through his hands; all posts, places, and pensions were given away by him; all favours depended upon his smile; the king left everything to him. He spent

his money with great freedom and did much for learning. He founded a great college at Oxford, now called Christ Church—the largest and most wealthy of all the colleges in that university.

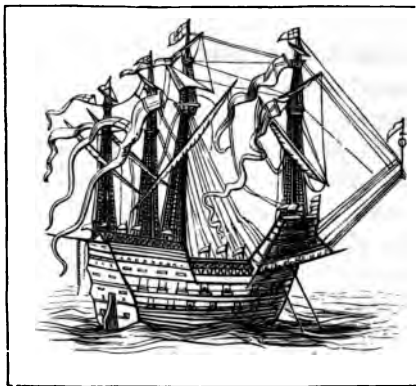
6. The Field of the Cloth-of-Gold, 1520.—The kings of France and England wished to have a meeting, and to talk with each other about affairs of state. Henry was glad to go and see a brother king, and to vie with him in the splendour of his attendants and the magnificence of his horses and armour. The meeting accordingly took place in the summer of 1520, on a plain not far from the “English town” of Calais. Nothing in Europe had ever been seen like it. A palace of wood was raised for the English king—a palace covered with canvas painted to imitate stone. Splendid hangings, bright with richest colour, blazing with gold and glittering with jewels, covered the walls of the rooms. In front of the palace stood a fountain which was constantly playing, and which sent forth streams of both red and white wine; and above it was placed the inscription, “Make good cheer, all ye who pass by!” Tents of silk and velvet, tents of cloth-of-



Henry's Tent at the Field of the Cloth-of-Gold.

gold, fastened with ropes of gold and silk, and all hung with blue velvet studded with stars; banners of the richest cloths; dresses more splendid than had ever before been worn—all these dazzled and

delighted the eye. The English nobles vied with each other in the costliness of their dresses. The French



The Great Harry.

nobles "put all their estates upon their backs" to keep pace with their English guests.

Tournaments, in which the kings took part and were always victors; mimic battles; knightly exercises; balls; dinners; pic-

nic, — in these and in other ways a fortnight rolled merrily away. King Henry then returned to London, "in good health, but with a light purse." There was no other result. Such was the meeting on the "Field of the Cloth-of-Gold."

re-vers'ed, did away with and brought in the opposite.

pol'-i-cy, way of ruling or acting.

raid, a *riding* into an enemy's country for the purpose of plunder.

van'-tage, advantage.

fa'-tal, deadly.

la-ment', mourn.

de-pend'-ed upon, rested upon; hung upon.

vie, to try to be better than.

mag-nif'-i-cence, grandeur; splendour.

im'-i-tate, to make like; to try to be like.

in-scrip'-tion, writing.

Bull's-eye, the central part of a target.

B.A., Bachelor of Arts, a title or degree given by a university to those who have passed a certain examination.

EDINBURGH AFTER FLODDEN.—I.

1. News of battle!—news of battle !
 Hark ! 'tis ringing down the street :
 And the archways and the pavement
 Bear the clang of hurrying feet.
 News of battle ! who hath brought it ?
 News of triumph ? Who should bring
 Tidings from our noble army,
 Greetings from our gallant King ?
 All last night we watched the beacons
 Blazing on the hills afar, 10
 Each one bearing, as it kindled,
 Message of the opened war.
 All night long the northern streamers
 Shot across the trembling sky :
 Fearful lights, that never beacon
 Save when kings or heroes die.

2. News of battle ! who hath brought it ?
 All are thronging to the gate ;
 “Warder—warder ! open quickly !
 Man—is this a time to wait ?” 20
 And the heavy gates are opened :
 Then a murmur long and loud,
 And a cry of fear and wonder
 Bursts from out the bending crowd.
 For they see in battered harness
 Only one hard-stricken man ;
 And his weary steed is wounded,
 And his cheek is pale and wan :
 Spearless hangs a bloody banner
 In his weak and drooping hand— 30

What! can that be Randolph Murray,
Captain of the city band?

3. Round him crush the people, crying,
"Tell us all—oh, tell us true!
Where are they who went to battle,
Randolph Murray, sworn to you?
Where are they, our brothers—children?
Have they met the English foe?
Why art thou alone, unfollowed?—
Is it weal, or is it woe?" 40
Like a corpse the grisly warrior
Looks from out his helm of steel;
But no word he speaks in answer—
Only with his arméd heel
Chides his weary steed, and onward
Up the city streets they ride;
Fathers, sisters, mothers, children,
Shrieking, praying by his side.
"By the God that made thee, Randolph!
Tell us what mischance hath come." 50
Then he lifts his riven banner,
And the asker's voice is dumb.

tri'-umph, victory.

tid'-ings, news.

bea'-con, burn brightly (as a sign).

throng'-ing, going in throngs or
crowds

war'-der, the guardian or keeper of
the gate.

bat'-tered, dented in many places.

har'-ness, armour.

hard-strick'-en, worn out; wearied.

wan, pale and sickly.

droop'-ing, hanging powerless.

gris'-ly, rough and bearded.

mis'-chance', bad fortune.

Northern streamers—the "*Merrie Dancers*," or Aurora Borealis, the gleaming lights often seen at night in the northern skies.

Trembling sky. The sky seemed to tremble or shake with the wavy motion of these lights.

Message of the opened war. This refers to the practice of lighting beacons on the hill-tops to tell the people that a battle was going on.

EDINBURGH AFTER FLODDEN.—II.

1. The elders of the city
Have met within their hall—
The men whom good King James had charged
To watch the tower and wall.
“Your hands are weak with age,” he said,
“Your hearts are stout and true ;
So bide ye in the Maiden Town,
While others fight for you. . . .
And if, instead of Scottish shouts,
Ye hear the English drum— 10
Then let the warning bells ring out,
Then gird you to the fray,
Then man the walls like burghers stout,
And fight while fight you may.
’Twere better that in fiery flame
The roof should thunder down,
Than that the foot of foreign foe
Should trample in the town !”
2. Then in came Randolph Murray—
His step was slow and weak ; 20
And, as he doffed his dinted helm,
The tears ran down his cheek :
They fell upon his corselet,
And on his mailéd hand,
As he gazed around him wistfully,
Leaning sorely on his brand.
And none who then beheld him
But straight were smote with fear,
For a bolder and a sterner man
Had never couched a spear. 30

They knew so sad a messenger
 Some ghastly news must bring ;
 And all of them were fathers,
 And their sons were with the King.

3. And up then rose the Provost—
 A brave old man was he,
 Of ancient name, and knightly fame,
 And chivalrous degree. . . .
 Oh, woful now was the old man's look,
 And he spake right heavily— 40
 "Now, Randolph, tell thy tidings,
 However sharp they be !
 Woe is written on thy visage,
 Death is looking from thy face :
 Speak ! though it be of overthrow—
 It cannot be disgrace !"

eld'-ers, old men.

gird you, bind your swords round you.

doffed, took off; laid aside.

corse'-let, coat of mail.

wist'-ful-ly, anxiously and sadly

vis'-age, face.

brand, sword.

couched a spear, laid a spear in rest
 against an enemy.

chiv'-al-rous de-gree', of the rank of
 a knight.

Their hall—that is, the city hall.

Provost, the chief magistrate or mayor of a Scottish city or town.

EDINBURGH AFTER FLODDEN.—III.

1. Right bitter was the agony
 That wrung that soldier proud :
 Thrice did he strive to answer,
 And thrice he groaned aloud.

Then he gave the riven banner
To the old man's shaking hand,
Saying—"That is all I bring ye
From the bravest of the land!
Ay! ye may look upon it—
It was guarded well and long,
By your brothers and your children,
By the valiant and the strong.

2. " One by one they fell around it,
As the archers laid them low,
Grimly dying, still unconquered,
With their faces to the foe.
Ay! ye may well look upon it—
There is more than honour there,
Else, be sure, I had not brought it
From the field of dark despair. 20
Never yet was royal banner
Steeped in such a costly dye ;—
It hath lain upon a bosom
Where no other shroud shall lie.
Sirs! I charge you, keep it holy,
Keep it as a sacred thing ;
For the stain ye see upon it
Was—the life-blood of your King ! ”

3. Woe, and woe, and lamentation !
What a piteous cry was there ! . . . 30
Widows, maidens, mothers, children,
Shrieking, sobbing in despair ! . . .
“O the blackest day for Scotland . . .
That she ever knew before !
O our King ! the good, the noble !
Shall we see him never more ?

Woe to us, and woe to Scotland !—
 O our sons, our sons and men !
 Surely some have 'scaped the Southron,
 Surely some will come again !"— 40
 Till the oak that fell last winter
 Shall uprear its shattered stem,
 Wives and mothers of Dunedin,
 Ye may look in vain for them !

W. E. ARTOUN.

strive, to make an attempt.
 riv'-en, torn.
 val'-iant, brave.
 shroud, dress of the dead.

lam-ent-a'-tion, weeping.
 'scaped, escaped ; got away from.
 up-rear', raise on high.
 shat'-ter-ed, broken to pieces.

Costly dye—the blood of the Scottish king, James IV.
 Southron—that is, the English.
 Dunedin, the Celtic name for Edinburgh.

41.—HENRY THE EIGHTH.—II.

1509-1547.—*Reigned 38 years.*

1. **The Emperor Charles V.**—This King of Spain was the nephew of Henry's wife, Katharine of Arragon ; and Henry VIII. was therefore his uncle by marriage. He was Charles I. of Spain, but was better and more widely known as Charles V.—for by that title he was Emperor of Germany. Wolsey hoped and believed that Charles V. would help him some day to become Pope ; and so, after the splendid and noisy meeting of the "Field of the Cloth-of-Gold," Wolsey got his master to go and meet Charles in a quieter way. At that small but very important meeting, Henry and Charles made a treaty ; and not long after the two friends made war together upon the French king.

2. Defender of the Faith.—There arose about this time, in the distant land of South Germany, a monk called **Martin Luther**, who began to teach people that the religion of the Pope was different from that taught in the New Testament. King Henry was on the side of the Pope, and advised the rulers of Germany “to burn Luther with all his books;” but as they would not do that, he himself set to work to write a book against Luther. The Pope was pleased, and gave to Henry the title of Defender of the Faith.



Martin Luther.

3. Henry quarrels with the Pope.—After Henry had been married for about eighteen years, he began to grow tired of his wife Katharine. There were no children—except one plain sickly-looking little girl called Mary. Henry much preferred a lively young beauty called Anne Boleyn; and he began to try and think that he had done wrong in marrying the widow of his brother. He also thought—or believed he thought—that the wrath of God was shown in the death of all his male children. He accordingly sent and asked the Pope to declare that he had never been lawfully married to Katharine; but the Pope did not like to do this. He did not wish to offend Henry, lest he should turn Protestant; he did not wish to offend Katharine’s nephew, the great Emperor of Germany, because at that very time he had a large army in Italy. So he sent orders to Cardinal Wolsey and another cardinal to try the case in London, to settle the question whether Henry was rightly married to his brother’s

widow, but not to be in any hurry about it. The two legates found that they could not settle this grave question; Katharine appealed to the Pope, and the matter had to be tried in Rome. Henry was terribly angry. He knew that the Pope would be afraid of the Emperor, and that he would most probably give the case against him and in favour of his wife Katharine. He therefore determined to take the matter into his own hands, and to have nothing more to do with the Pope.

4. The Fall of Wolsey.—When Henry saw that Wolsey could do nothing more for him—could do nothing to break his marriage with Katharine—he made up his mind to send him away. Wolsey had accordingly to leave his palace of York Place; the king turned away his face and favour from him, and refused to see him any more. In addition to this, he was actually arrested on a charge of high treason. Happily for him, he died on his way to London—a broken-hearted man, a discarded favourite, a disappointed statesman.

5. Sir Thomas More.—On the fall of Wolsey, the king sent for his friend, **Sir Thomas More**, and made him Lord Chancellor of the kingdom. Henry had always been very fond of the society and conversation of this able man, could hardly bear to let him go from his presence, and used to walk with More in his garden at Chelsea by the hour with his arm round his neck. But More did not feel himself able to approve of Henry's marriage with Anne Boleyn or of his putting away his first wife; and Henry, who could not bear contradiction, threw him into the Tower. Now, when Henry quarrelled with the Pope, he took to himself, by the advice of a daring man called Thomas Cromwell, the title of Head of the Church; and while More was lying in the Tower, Henry got Parliament to pass an

Act making it high treason for any one to deny him this title. More could not, in common honesty, admit that Henry had a right to call himself Head of the Church; so he was brought before his peers, was tried, sentenced, and beheaded.

6. Thomas Cranmer.—Thomas Cranmer was a learned priest who owed his rise in the Church to the question which had arisen about the legality of the marriage of Katharine. He threw out the idea that Henry should send letters to all the learned men in the universities of Europe, asking whether it was lawful for a man to marry his brother's widow? "That man," cried Henry, "has the right sow by the ear;" and from this time Cranmer gradually rose, step by step, until he was made Archbishop of Canterbury.

7. Anne Boleyn.—This lady, who became the second wife of Henry VIII., was the daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, a knight of the county of Norfolk, and a niece of the Duke of Norfolk's. She was Maid of Honour to Queen Katharine. She had been brought up at the French Court, was very pretty, very lively in her manners, and "dressed to perfection." She played well on the lute, and sang very sweetly; and her archness, gaiety, and sprightly talk made her company very pleasant—made every one like and admire her. The queen was sent away from Court—sent to live in a dull house in the country; and Henry, in spite of Pope and cardinals, married Anne Boleyn. There were much splendour and great rejoicings at the wedding; and in course of time Queen Anne had a daughter, who received the name of Elizabeth, and who was afterwards one of the greatest sovereigns of England.

8. The Execution of Anne Boleyn.—In the year 1536,

Queen Anne was accused of high treason—when any person happened to displease the king, he was of course accused of high treason—and was sent to the Tower. Her brother and some other gentlemen were accused along with her. They had a kind of trial—a mere mock trial—were condemned to death, and beheaded. “My brother and the rest,” she said, “are now, I doubt not, before the face of the greater king, and I shall follow to-morrow.” When the gentleman in charge called her from her room to walk forth to the block, she said to him: “I hear the headsman is very skilful; I have a very little neck;” and she put her hand about it laughing. A clever headsman had been sent for expressly from Calais; he used a sword; and her head was cut off with a single blow. Meanwhile Henry VIII. was waiting in a hunting-dress, with his men and dogs about him, under a tree in Richmond Park, for the welcome news that the head of his wife had fallen. When the message reached him, “Ha! ha!” he shouted, “the deed is done!” Then he put spurs to his horse, and galloped off to see a lady called Jane Seymour, and married her next morning.

de-fend’-er, one who protects or takes care of.

set’-tle, to decide; arrange.

ap-pealed’ to, brought the case before.

prec’-ious, costly; of great value.

dis-card’-ed, turned away.

ap-prove’, think right; think well of.
le-gal’-i-ty, lawfulness.

per-fec’-tion, state of being perfect or complete.

arch’-ness, gay and pleasant manners.
spright’-ly, bright; lively.

42.—HENRY THE EIGHTH.—III.

1509-1547.—*Reigned 38 years.*

1. **Jane Seymour.**—This lady was the daughter of Sir John Seymour, an able knight who had attended Henry

at the famous meeting of the "Field of the Cloth-of-Gold." She, too, had been Maid of Honour to the queen—Maid of Honour to Queen Anne Boleyn. The king had fallen in love with her, and, as we have seen, married her as soon as he was rid of Anne. But he did not give her the title of queen; and though he was married four times after Anne's death, not one of the wives who followed her received that title. Jane Seymour had a son, who was named Edward, and who afterwards became king as Edward the Sixth. She caught cold at the christening of her little boy, and the poor lady died in a few days.

2. Thomas Cromwell.—Thomas Cromwell was the son of a blacksmith, and was born near London in the year 1490. He was so clever that Wolsey made him his secretary, and took his advice in all matters of importance; and when Wolsey fell, Cromwell was put into several high offices, one after another, by the king. He was especially active in Henry's quarrel with the Pope. To show that Henry was the true Head of the English Church, he began to give orders to priests without the permission of the Pope—placed English Bibles in all the churches, removed the images of saints from the altars, covered the beautiful pictures with a coat of whitewash, and had all young persons taught the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. But he too fell; he too was brought to the block—the hungry block—that stood always ready upon Tower Hill, and his head was struck off there. In several instances it was the queens of Henry who, directly or indirectly, were the cause of the death of the great statesmen who came into the service of the king. It was Anne Boleyn who overthrew Wolsey and Sir Thomas More; it was Anne of Cleves who was the ruin of Thomas Cromwell.

3. Anne of Cleves.—This lady, the fourth wife of Henry, was a German princess, born in a castle near the Rhine; and her relations were not Catholic rulers, but all of them Protestants and Lutherans. Cromwell thought it would be a good thing if Henry were to marry this princess, as it would be advantageous for Henry to have the Protestant rulers of Germany on his side in his quarrel with the Pope. He showed Henry a beautiful portrait of her—painted by a cunning artist upon ivory—and Henry was delighted. But when the lady herself came to England, she proved to be a big, stout, clumsy woman, marked with small-pox, dull and slow of speech, and not at all clever or pleasant in her manners. Moreover, she could not speak a word of English. Unlike Anne Boleyn, she could not sing, or play, or talk, or do anything to amuse Henry, who was very angry with Cromwell; and so Cromwell lost the king's favour. Henry married Anne, for he had promised to marry her; but soon after he sent her away to one of his country seats with a good pension, and gave her the absurd title of his "Adopted Sister." The stolid but sensible Anne of Cleves remembered the fate of her charming namesake; took the dismissal and the pension very quietly; and went.

4. The Monasteries.—Many of the monasteries of England had fallen into a bad state; the monks in some of them had grown lazy, selfish, and ignorant; and it cannot be denied that these men in several ways misled the people. They were too fond of showing the people relics—that is, the bones, or pieces of the clothing, of saints—and teaching that great help and the cure of diseases were to be had from kissing these relics. Wolsey had always intended to look into the state of the monasteries; but he had gone before the question came up for settlement, and

it was to Cromwell that the task fell. In 1536, Parliament, at the bidding of Henry and Cromwell, passed an Act closing five hundred of the smaller houses, and diverting their money to found schools and colleges. But the king soon forgot the second and more important half of the Act of Parliament, and found it more pleasant and easy to keep the money for himself. From this successful enterprise he went on to attack the great old abbeys and the larger monasteries, many of which were in perfectly good order and doing good work. But the fact is, the king wanted their lands. Some he sold, and put the money obtained for them in his pocket; some he gave away to his favourite nobles; and some he lost to them at dice. The elder monks and nuns were pensioned off; but the younger were mercilessly turned out to find their own living. At Wilton, the Earl of Pembroke drove the ladies out, saying: "Go spin, you jades, go spin!" The chapels of the monasteries were turned into stables, barns, and malt-houses; and the beautiful illuminated books in the libraries were sold as waste paper for a few shillings.

at-tend'-ed, waited upon.

fa'-mous, well-known.

sec'-re-tar-y, one employed to write for another.

per-miss'-ion, leave given.

ad-van-ta'-ge-ous, useful.

pen'-sion, money paid yearly to a dependant.

stol'-id, slow and dull.

dis-miss'-al, the sending away.

di-vert'-ing, drawing aside.

en'-ter-prise, work; undertaking.

il-lu'-min-a-ted, ornamented with gold and silver, or with bright colours.

Lutherans. All those who sided with the reformers were called **Protestants**; those who upheld the special doctrines of Luther were called **Lutherans**.

Monastery, a house where monks lived; a *nunnery* is a house where nuns live.

43.—HENRY THE EIGHTH.—IV.

1509-1547.—Reigned 38 years.

1. **The English Bible.**—William Tyndale, a young Oxford scholar, had translated most of the Bible and printed it in 1530; but he was seized at Antwerp by the Roman Catholic priests there, and put to death by burning at the stake. King Henry asked **Miles Coverdale** to look over Tyndale's translation, and to correct it; and he then had the book printed. When this was done, a copy was chained to a desk or pillar in every church or cathedral; and crowds of people came every day to hear it read,—parties now and then being made up for the purpose. Henry thought that the English people, by learning to read the Bible, would help him to resist the Pope; but they learned a great deal more from it than he ever wanted or expected them to learn.

2. **The Fifth Wife.**—After sending away Anne of Cleves, Henry married another niece of the Duke of Norfolk, and cousin to Anne Boleyn,—a lady named **Katharine Howard**. She was a fair and gentle girl; but she was so unfortunate as to have enemies who accused her of crimes which she was said to have committed before her marriage to the king. The king lent an ear to these accusations; she too, like Anne Boleyn, was brought to trial, and beheaded in 1542.

3. **The Sixth Wife.**—Henry was resolved to marry again; and he sent a kind message to a foreign lady asking her to be his wife. Her reply was that she was much obliged, but that she had only one head; if she had had two, she might have been able to think of it. His sixth wife was an English lady. Her name was Lady Latimer,

and she was the widow of Lord Latimer; but she is better known by her maiden name of **Katharine Parr**. She nursed him tenderly, helped him to keep his temper, and was clever enough to keep her own head upon her shoulders,—though she came very near losing it at one time. She lived a good many years after Henry died.

4. Henry's Government.—Henry wished to see England free from the power of the Pope, and to know that his own will was obeyed by every man, woman, and child in the country. He made the Houses of Parliament do what he liked; and he left the crown of England by will, just as if it had been his own private property. He was, in fact, the most absolute and complete tyrant that ever sat upon the throne of England. On the other hand, it must be said that he left England greater and more powerful, stronger at home and more respected abroad, than she had been when he came to the throne.

5. Henry's Death, 1547.—Henry had grown old, weak, fat, and peevish. He was so stout that he could not move from room to room without the help of machinery; but, even when death was staring him in the face, he could not give up his thirst for blood—his fondness for sending those whom he distrusted or disliked to the block upon Tower Hill. He flung the Earl of Surrey, a noble soldier and a true poet, into the Tower on a charge of high treason, and in a few days had him beheaded. The Duke of Norfolk—the earl's father—was also arrested, and would have lost his head also, but that the death of the king came in time to stop the order for the execution.

6. Henry's Character.—Henry was not a person whom we can recommend others to love or to follow. One writer calls him “a self-willed coxcomb;” another says that his reign is a “blot of blood and grease” on the history of

England. One historian calls him a brutal and selfish tyrant; while another, not looking upon his personal character, but on the good that had come out of his reign for the English people, speaks of him as a wise and fatherly ruler. He certainly had the eye to choose able men; but then he cut off the heads of most of them. He himself was coarse, cruel, and even bloodthirsty; he cared for no one but himself, and he was always ready to put to death any person or persons, however great or wise or good, if they stood in his way.

re-sist', stand against.

ex-pect'-ed, looked for.

un-for'-tu-nate, unlucky.

pri'-vate, belonging to one person.

ab'-so-lute, complete; unlimited.

ty'-rant, a ruler who has no other

power to restrain him.

re-spect'-ed, looked up to.

peev'-ish, easily annoyed; hard to please.

dis-trust'-ed, suspected.

cox'-comb, a fool and a fop.

Antwerp, a large and well-built city on the river Scheldt. It is the largest seaport of Belgium. Its cathedral is one of the finest buildings in the world.

William Tyndale published translations of many parts of the Scriptures. He was apprehended at Antwerp, strangled and burned in 1536.

Miles Coverdale was born in Yorkshire in 1487. He became Bishop of Exeter, and with Tyndale translated parts of the Scriptures into English. He died at London in 1568.

Earl of Surrey wrote some very fine poems. He is the first English writer of blank (or unrhymed) verse.

44.—THOMAS WOLSEY.

1471-1530.

1. **Who Wolsey was.**—Thomas Wolsey fills so large a space in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and was so great a power—for good and for evil—during many years both in England and in Europe, that it will be well for us that we should learn something more about him. He

was the last English priest who held the office of Lord High Chancellor, as Thomas Becket was the first. Both men rose through, and by the aid of, the Church, and rose to be princes of the Church; both withstood their king, and both owed their fall to the command of their king. There are many other points of likeness and of contrast in their lives, and these we can easily look for and think upon for ourselves. Thomas Wolsey was born in the year 1471 at Ipswich, was said to have been the son of a butcher there, and his enemies generally spoke of him as the "butcher's dog."



Cardinal Wolsey.

2. His Education.—He was well and carefully educated; and, when quite a little boy, was sent to Magdalen College, Oxford. He worked very hard there; and, as we have seen, he took his degree so early that he was generally known and spoken of as "the Boy-Bachelor."

3. His Rise.—His talents were so highly thought of that he was, when still a young man, made chaplain to Henry VII. For this king he carried out various important matters of business with so much despatch and ability, and with so much success, that he soon came to be considered one of the rising men of the time. In 1508 he was made Dean of Lincoln. In the year after Henry VIII. succeeded to the throne; and Wolsey was as highly esteemed by the son as he had been by the father. He was soon created Bishop of Lincoln, then Bishop of Winchester, and lastly Archbishop of York. The Pope sent him a cardinal's hat, and he was now a prince of the Church. There was no higher rank in the Church that

he could rise to—except that of Pope. The king also appointed him to be Lord High Chancellor of England; and he may now be said to have had the whole country in his own hands. His ambition looked higher; he hoped to be Pope; and then he would have been in a certain sense lord of all Europe.

4. His High Estate.—When he travelled in any part of England, he made a kind of “royal progress.” He had a thousand persons in his train: the gentlemen who waited on him were dressed in rich black velvet coats and with gold chains about their necks, and marched in ranks of three; the yeomen and servants followed in orange coats, with the letters T. C., for *Thomas, Cardinal*, embroidered upon them: Two silver crosses and two silver pillars were borne before him. The Great Seal of England was also carried before him by one of his gentlemen; the cardinal’s hat on a red cushion by another; and a scarlet bag, embroidered with gold—the symbol of his power over the Treasury—by a third. He himself rode in state robes of red, as befitted a Cardinal Prince of the Church. A spare horse and mule, in scarlet and gold trappings, were led behind him. Eighty waggons and twenty sumpter-mules, laden with stores and provisions of all kinds, went in front of this glowing and glittering procession.

“The English land was more resplendent made
By the mere passing of that cavalcade,
With plumes, and cloaks, and housings, and the stir
Of jewelled bridle and of golden spur.”

5. His Fall.—Henry was displeased because the Pope would not allow him to put away his wife, Katharine of Arragon, and to marry Anne Boleyn; he laid the blame of this upon Wolsey, and dismissed him from his Court.

The Lord Cardinal Archbishop of York was in disgrace. He was even charged with having broken the laws of the country. He had to give up "all his lands, goods, and chattels," and go away to a house in the country. He leaves, and for ever, his palace at York Place. His velvets and satins; his thousand pieces of fine cloth; his cloth-of-gold hangings; his hoards of gold and silver plate—some set with pearls and precious stones,—all have to be given up to the king. "They came from him," said the fallen cardinal; "let them go back to him again."

6. Wolsey's Death, 1530.—Wolsey was sent away from Esher, and ordered to go down to his See of York.

One day, as he is sitting at dinner, the Earl of Northumberland arrives "with a great company," and sends in a message desiring to see him alone. Wolsey welcomes him



Wolsey's Tower, Esher.

very heartily; but the earl is ashamed to look him in the face. The two men go into the cardinal's bed-chamber; they are standing at the window; and "the earl trembling said, with a very faint and soft voice, laying his hand upon his arm, 'My lord, I arrest you of

high treason!"—The journey south began. The cardinal was ill; but he rode on till he reached the gates of Leicester Abbey. He could go no further. "Father Abbot," he said, "you see a poor old man come to lay his bones among you." He was taken to bed, from which he never rose. He died in a few days. Just before his death, he said to Master Kingston, the Constable of the Tower, "Had I but served my God as diligently as I have served the king, He would not have given me over in my grey hairs."

con'-trast, difference that is so great as to become <i>opposite</i> .	em-broid'-ered, sewn in beautiful patterns.
tal'-ents, natural gifts or powers.	sym'-bol, sign.
de-spatch', quickness.	be-fit'-ted, became; was suitable for.
a-bil'-i-ty, power.	sump'-ter-mules, mules laden with baggage.
con-sid'-ered, thought.	re-splend'-ent, shining brightly.
es-teemed', thought much of.	
cav'-al-cade, a procession of people on horseback.	

Ipswich is the county town and also the largest town in Suffolk.

Dean, the head of a cathedral.

Treasury, the part of the government which takes charge of the money; the public purse.

45.—EDWARD THE SIXTH.

1547-1553.—*Reigned 6 years.*

1. **Who Edward VI. was.**—Henry the Eighth left only three children—Mary, Elizabeth, and Edward. Mary was the daughter of Katharine of Arragon; Elizabeth, the daughter of Anne Boleyn; and Edward, the son of Jane Seymour. Henry's will was to the effect that his son Edward should succeed him on the throne; that, in the case of his death, Mary should come after him; and, after her, Elizabeth. And it so happened that all three

reigned in this order. Parliament had given to Henry the power of giving away the crown by will; and this fact must be remembered, as it was the first time it ever occurred in our history. Edward was only a little boy of nine years of age when he came to the throne.

2. The Government.—Edward's uncle, the Earl of Hertford, was his guardian, and a member of the Council that had been appointed to rule and to manage the affairs of the country.



Edward VI.

Hertford prevailed upon Edward to make him **Lord Protector of the Kingdom**, and to create him Duke of Somerset. The new Duke of Somerset was in favour of what were called the "new opinions" or "the new religion." He was, in fact, a Protestant; and, along with Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer, he did all he could to help forward that great change—called the "Reformation"—which Thomas Cromwell had begun.

3. The Battle of Pinkie.—Henry VIII. had wished to marry his son to Mary, the young Queen of Scotland, and thus to unite the two crowns; and, very soon after Edward's accession, Somerset again brought the proposal before the Scottish Government; but a flat refusal was sent back. Somerset, in reply, marched an army into Scotland; met the Scots at Pinkie, near Edinburgh; and gave them a terrible defeat. Even the Scotchmen who favoured the match did not approve of the war; they said, "Though we like the marriage, we are not much pleased with the manner of wooing." Mary, instead of being given to the King of England, was sent to the

French Court, and there married the Dauphin, or eldest son of the King of France.

4. Somerset and the Reformation.—Henry's desire had been to free England not only from the rule but from the influence of the Pope ; but he had never had the smallest wish to change the religion of the country. Somerset went a long step in advance of Henry. His aim was to alter completely the religious opinions of Englishmen.



Old Somerset House.

He did away with the Mass ; he brought in a Liturgy ; had all statues, images, and pictures removed from the churches ; and summed up religion in Forty-two Articles. Cranmer was also ordered to draw up a Common Prayer Book for use in all churches. The king was a mere child, but much given to talking about these matters ; and he followed Somerset in whatever he said or did—he approved of all his measures. A pulpit was erected in the young

king's garden ; and the boy would sit and listen for hours together to the long but witty sermons of Hugh Latimer, the Bishop of Worcester. The changes brought in by Somerset were very popular in London and the larger towns—which had always been inclined to reform ; but the country people did not like them at all, they much preferred the old religion ; but they were afraid to give expression to their opinions, and said nothing.

5. Risings of the People.—The monks had been good, easy landlords, very kind to the poor—had kept open house with daily meals for the traveller and the beggar at their gates ; and when a labourer's sheep or cow died, they would cheer him up and give him another. The new landlords, who had got hold of the lands by purchase—and the prices were often high—were harsh and strict, demanded all their rights, took their own to the uttermost farthing, and in many cases “ground the faces of the poor.” Again, they set to work and enclosed a great deal of land and turned the labourers who used to graze cows and sheep there, or even raise crops of corn on it, out of their houses. This land they turned into large grazing farms, because it was possible to make more money out of wool than out of corn. All this being added to the changes in religion, made the country people like the new state of affairs less and less.—There was a great deal of discontent ; and risings took place in Devonshire, Cornwall, and in other parts of the country. The Earl of Warwick—a Dudley, the son of that Edmund Dudley whom Henry VIII. had put to death—was sent to put down these risings. He hanged some priests and monks from the church-steeple, put the leaders of the risings to death, and broke up the peasant armies of the rioters.

6. The Duke of Northumberland.—Somerset had fallen—had been accused of high treason and had met the fate of traitors on Tower Hill; and Warwick now prevailed upon the young king to make him Duke of Northumberland and Lord Protector of the kingdom. But Warwick was even more of a Protestant than Somerset; and, what is still more certain, he put more of the money and lands of the Church into his own pocket and into the pockets of his friends than even Somerset had done. He married his fourth son, Lord Guildford Dudley, to the young Lady Jane Grey; and then persuaded the young king to make a will leaving the crown to Lady Jane. Edward was weak and ill at this time; he had had small-pox and measles; and after these attacks of illness he was never well again. Northumberland had strong hopes of one day seeing his own son King of England, through the great marriage that had been made for him.

7. Lady Jane Grey.—This young lady was a granddaughter of Mary Tudor, the younger sister of Henry VIII. This was her only claim to the English crown—a claim which was very far from being sufficient. The great point, however, was that Lady Jane was a Protestant; and Edward VI. had the greatest dread lest the throne should, after he was gone, be filled by his sister Mary, who was a Papist. But Edward had no more right to give the crown to Lady Jane than Edward the Confessor had to name William of Normandy as his successor.

8. The Death of Edward VI.—The young king died a fortnight after making his will. The fact of his death was kept secret for four days, so that plans might be made and matured for placing Lady Jane Grey upon the throne.

Then letters were sent to the two princesses, Mary Tudor and Elizabeth Tudor, asking them to come and see their dying brother. They did not come. If they had come, Northumberland would have seized them and flung them into the Tower. But, though Lady Jane was proclaimed queen, the people did not want her: the great nobles and their followers rallied round the eldest daughter of Henry the Eighth.

oc-curred', happened.
man'-age, to look after; direct.
ac-cess'-ion, coming to the throne.
woo'-ing, courting.
in'-flu-ence, power.
re-pealed', did away with.
pre-ferred', would rather.
give ex-pres'-sion, say aloud.
en-closed', shut in.

pre-vailed' upon, advised and persuaded.
suf-fic'-ient, strong enough.
dread, fear.
ral'-lied round, gathered round.
Pa'-pist, a follower of the Pope; one belonging to the Roman Catholic Church.

Cranmer was created Archbishop of Canterbury by Henry VIII. In Mary's reign he was accused of heresy and thrown into the Tower. After three years' confinement he suffered death by burning.

Ridley was born in Northumberland about 1500. He was educated at Cambridge. On the advice of Cranmer he was made chaplain to Henry VIII.; and with Cranmer he pushed on the Reformation. When Mary succeeded, he was accused of heresy, condemned, and martyred.

Latimer, an English prelate and martyr. He was educated at Cambridge, and was made Bishop of Worcester by Henry VIII. He reproved Henry for his acts, and for this he was thrown into the Tower. He was released by Edward VI., and lived and worked with Cranmer. In Mary's reign, he too suffered martyrdom at the stake.

Liturgy, prayers and services of the Church printed in the Prayer-Book.

46.—MARY THE FIRST.—I.

1553-1558.—Reigned 5 years.

1. Who Mary I. was. — Mary was the daughter of Henry the Eighth and the Spanish Princess, Katharine of Arragon, his first wife. She was thirty-seven years of

age when she began to reign ; her life had been sad and lonely ; and she was a woman of a dull and even morose disposition.



Mary I.

2. The Two Queens.—The Lady Jane was publicly proclaimed in London ; Mary was proclaimed queen in Norfolk. The Duke of Northumberland left London with an army to seize the person of Mary ; but no one seemed to wish him well ; the people looked on at the soldiers marching past—but no one

shouted or hurrahed for Queen Jane. The duke himself said to a friend who was with him : “The people crowd to look on us ; but no man saith God speed you !” On the other hand, thousands—both high and low—flocked to the standard of Queen Mary ; and the cause of Northumberland and Lady Jane seemed to be lost.

3. Northumberland beheaded, 1553.—The Lady Jane was proclaimed queen on the 10th of July 1553 ; and on the 19th she was in the Tower. She had not been queen ten days. The Duke of Northumberland was at once put to death ; but the Lady Jane and her young husband—she was only sixteen and he seventeen—were only ordered to remain within the precincts of the Tower, and their imprisonment was not at all severe. They were allowed to see visitors ; to walk in the garden ; and no doubt their lives would have been spared had it not been for the action of other persons over whom they had no control.

4. Mary's Entrance into London.—Queen Mary entered London along with her youthful half-sister, Elizabeth. She rode a small white horse, and was dressed in violet—

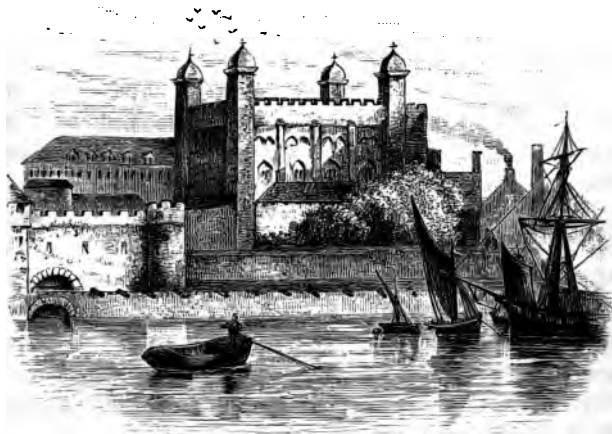
a kind of mourning for her brother Edward. She looked old and pinched—worn with care and ill-health, with olive skin and black hair, small and spare of figure : but her strong dark flashing eyes bespoke the majesty of her race. Elizabeth presented a strong contrast to her withered-looking sister : she had her father's clear blue eyes, golden hair, and bright fair complexion. When Mary alighted at the Tower, she saw a group of men and women kneeling before her on the green. These were the Catholic ladies, noblemen, and bishops who had been imprisoned in Henry's and in Edward's time. She burst into tears at the sight of them. "You are now *my* prisoners!" she said, and went from one to the other, kissing them and raising them from their knees.

5. Mary on the Throne.—Mary had made up her mind not only that England should take back her old religion—which, indeed, she had not entirely lost—but that the Church of England should once more be put under the Pope. She could not, and would not, call herself Head of the Church. Her wish and hope were to undo all that had been done in the reigns of her father and her brother. She accordingly set at liberty Bonner and Gardiner, and threw Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer into prison.

6. Another Spanish Marriage.—The English Parliament pressed Queen Mary to marry ; and she made up her mind to choose her own cousin, Philip II. of Spain, the son of Charles V. With two good Catholics on the throne, she thought, England would become a good and obedient Catholic country once more. But the English did not like the prospect of the Spanish marriage : they did not like a foreign husband for their queen ; they liked still less a dark Spanish bigot ; they liked least of

all that England should be turned into a province of Spain. But Mary had set her heart upon it.

7. Sir Thomas Wyatt.—The Duke of Suffolk, the father of Lady Jane Grey, raised the standard of rebellion when he heard of the Spanish marriage ; and Sir Thomas Wyatt, a gentleman of Kent, put himself at the head of a large body of Kentish men and marched upon London. He came, he said, “to save his country from Spanish plots and Spanish slavery ; from the rope, the rack, the thumbscrew, the stake, the fire.” Both risings were put down, and both leaders were put to death.



Tower of London.

8. The Execution of Lady Jane Grey.—These risings proved also to be the cause of death to Lady Jane Grey and her youthful husband. The Lady Jane had never sought for the crown : on the contrary, when the duke, her father-in-law, kneeling before her, had greeted her as Queen of England, she started, shrieked, and fell upon the

floor in a faint. It was told her that she must take the crown for the sake of the Gospel and the true faith; and then at length the poor girl yielded. But nothing had come of all this for her except imprisonment in the Tower; and nothing further was now to come of it but death. When Queen Mary had put down the Wyatt rising, she saw that, to prevent other attacks upon her throne, she must put the Lady Jane out of the way; and therefore she and her husband were told that they must prepare for death. The Lady Jane had been told that she could see her husband; but she feared that she should not be able to bear the interview, and declined. "I shall see him again shortly," she said. Young Lord Dudley was the first to suffer; and as his young wife walked to the block, she had to step across a stream of blood which flowed across her path from the headless body of her dead husband. She went forth to die, at eleven o'clock in the morning, with a quiet countenance and tearless eyes. "She tied the handkerchief upon her eyes; then feeling for the block, she said: 'Where is it? What shall I do? Where is it?'" A stander-by guided her to it; she laid her head down upon the block; stretched forth her hands and said, 'Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit!'" and so died. She was only sixteen. On the wall of the cell in which she was imprisoned is carved the single word **JANE**.

"Girl never breathed to rival such a rose;
Rose never blew that equall'd such a bud."

mo-rose', dull and gloomy; sour.
dis-po-sit'-ion, temper.
pre'-cincts, bounds; boundaries.
con'-trol, power.
be-spoke', spoke of; showed.

pros'-pect, out-look; view; idea.
big'-ot, one who blindly follows his own religious views.
pre-vent', to stop; hinder.
de-clined', said *no*; refused.

com-mend', give up; intrust.

Bonner, an English prelate and servant of Wolsey. He was sent to Rome by Henry VIII. to obtain the order of divorce from Queen Katharine. He was imprisoned during Edward's reign ; but released by Mary. Imprisoned again by Elizabeth, he remained in prison till his death.

Gardiner was secretary to Cardinal Wolsey. He too was sent to Rome by Henry, and helped on Henry's purpose, for which he was made Secretary of State. He accused Katharine, Henry's first queen, of heresy, but was unsuccessful, and fell into disgrace. Imprisoned during Edward VI.'s reign, he was released by Mary, and aided her in her persecution of the Protestants.

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47.—MARY THE FIRST.—II.

1553-1558.—*Reigned 5 years.*

1. Friends with Rome again.—Six months after this sad scene, Philip and Mary were married. But Philip was not crowned King of England ; the Parliament refused to have a Spanish king ; and it was agreed that, should Mary die before him, he should not become her successor. Mary now wished with all her heart to see the English Church reconciled to the Pope, and to see the Pope the Head and Father of the Church once more. The Pope was very glad to receive back into the fold the stray sheep of the Roman Catholic Church ; and he sent **Cardinal Pole**—an Englishman of royal blood, grandson of the Duke of Clarence—to the English Court as his legate.

2. The Submission of Parliament.—On the 30th of November 1554, the Lords and the Commons of England walked to Whitehall, knelt down before Cardinal Pole, and received forgiveness from him of all the sinful Acts they had passed. The Pope, through Cardinal Pole, at the same time absolved the Parliament of England. These English members of Parliament were at the same time

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Mary watching one of her Victims.

3. Persecution.—At first, Mary did not wish to hurt a single person who happened to differ with her in regard to religion. But very soon pressure was put upon her by the force of circumstances and by her priestly advisers ; and she soon began to walk in the too plainly marked footsteps of her bloodthirsty father. And thus it came to pass that nearly three hundred men,

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a kind of mourning for her brother Edward. She looked old and pinched—worn with care and ill-health, with olive skin and black hair, small and spare of figure : but her strong dark flashing eyes bespoke the majesty of her race. Elizabeth presented a strong contrast to her withered-looking sister : she had her father's clear blue eyes, golden hair, and bright fair complexion. When Mary alighted at the Tower, she saw a group of men and women kneeling before her on the green. These were the Catholic ladies, noblemen, and bishops who had been imprisoned in Henry's and in Edward's time. She burst into tears at the sight of them. "You are now *my* prisoners!" she said, and went from one to the other, kissing them and raising them from their knees.

5. Mary on the Throne.—Mary had made up her mind not only that England should take back her old religion—which, indeed, she had not entirely lost—but that the Church of England should once more be put under the Pope. She could not, and would not, call herself Head of the Church. Her wish and hope were to undo all that had been done in the reigns of her father and her brother. She accordingly set at liberty Bonner and Gardiner, and threw Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer into prison.

6. Another Spanish Marriage.—The English Parliament pressed Queen Mary to marry ; and she made up her mind to choose her own cousin, Philip II. of Spain, the son of Charles V. With two good Catholics on the throne, she thought, England would become a good and obedient Catholic country once more. But the English did not like the prospect of the Spanish marriage : they did not like a foreign husband for their queen ; they liked still less a dark Spanish bigot ; they liked least of

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women, and children were burnt alive during her reign. No wonder that the Protestants gave her the name of "Bloody Mary." More than a thousand married clergymen were driven from their livings—driven out into the world to begin life again, without a profession, and, in most cases, without any means of earning a living. Many good bishops suffered. At Oxford, Bishops Ridley and Latimer were burnt alive at the same stake. "Be of good cheer, Master Ridley," cried Latimer, an old man of eighty, to his brother bishop; "we shall this day light a candle in England that all the power of Rome will not be able to put out." Even the Archbishop of Canterbury was put to death at the stake. But this burning of Cranmer marked the height of the fury; and a bystander at the execution of Cranmer said to a friend, "This burning of the Archbishop has burned the Pope out of the land for ever and ever."

4. Mary's Married Life.—Mary was not happy in her marriage; it had not been a marriage of love. She was more than ten years older than her husband; she was a thin sickly woman, not easy to please, and somewhat sour in her temper; and her Spanish husband, not loving her very much, now and then was unfortunate enough to show it. He stayed with her in England only for a year. By the death of his father, he had become King of Spain, Southern Italy, the Netherlands, part of France, Mexico, and Peru; so that, if he chose to do it, he had plenty of work on his hands. England and his wife saw him no more, except for a very short time, when he returned for the purpose of urging Mary to help him in a war he was going to make against France. Unhappily Mary agreed. But nothing came to us out of this war with France except the loss of Calais. The French took Calais by sur-

prise ; and lost only one man at the siege. This ancient town in France—this foothold upon French soil—had been held by us for two hundred and thirteen years ; it was an English colony ; and it sent two members to the English Parliament. Grief and rage at its loss filled the heart of England ; greater grief and rage filled the heart of Mary. She said to the ladies of her chamber :—

“ Women, when I am dead,
Open my heart, and there you will find written
Two names, Philip and Calais.”

5. The Death of Mary, 1558.—Mary was ill ; but she was worse than ill—she had, in fact, lost heart. The coldness of her husband, the loss of Calais, her forlorn and childless condition, the dulness of being a queen, the hatred that was growing up among the people against her from the burnings of good and kindly men,—all these things pressed upon her spirit, and turned her into a sour, sullen, and gloomy old woman—old long before her time. Love, hope, and power had gone ; and life itself was fast slipping away from her. She would sit for hours,

“ With both her knees drawn upward to her chin.”

She was the wife of the “mightiest king upon earth ;” but her husband never came to see her ; and she would have been happier as the wife of the meanest day-labourer. She pined away slowly into death. She had not done much for England ; and an English statesman said—

“ That never English monarch, dying, left
England so little.”

re-con-ciled' to, brought to be friends with.

fold, a place where sheep are kept.

sub-miss'-ion, yielding.

ab-solved', freed from blame.

re-stored', gave back.

per-se-cu'-tion, the annoying and punishing of people for their beliefs.

pro-fess'-ion, means of livelihood ; trade.

for-lorn', lonely ; without friends.

pined away, wasted away slowly.

Netherlands, a country on the Continent opposite the north of England, now called Holland.

Mexico, a rich country in North America, south of the United States.

Peru, a country rich in minerals on the west coast of South America.

48.—ROWLAND TAYLOR THE MARTYR.

1. The Fires of Smithfield.—Smithfield was, in the time of Queen Mary, an open space just outside the walls of the city of London. It was a kind of playground for the citizens—the younger had their games there, and their elders liked it as a pleasant place for a stroll; and it was in this much frequented spot that many of the poor people burnt in Mary's reign were brought to the stake. **John Rogers**, a pious divine, a Canon of St Paul's, a friend of Tyndale's, and one of the men who had helped him in his English translation of the Bible, was the first to suffer. He was fastened to the stake with a chain; and, as he stood there, he held out his hands and "washed them in the flames," as they rose before him. After this man, as we have already learned, nearly three hundred persons suffered in this reign in different parts of England.

2. Rowland Taylor degraded.—One of the chief martyrs was **Rowland Taylor**, the grandfather of the great, pious, and eloquent Jeremy Taylor—a man who is justly regarded as an honour and an ornament to the Church of England. Before being sent down to his own parish to be burnt, he was degraded from his office of priest. Vestment after vestment, symbol after symbol, was taken off; and the last act of degradation was accomplished when the bishop struck the degraded priest a blow on the breast

with the reverse end of his crosier, as a sign that the unfaithful shepherd was dismissed from his office.

3. Taylor in Prison.—After being degraded, Taylor was sent to prison. The jailer was a kind man, and allowed his wife, one of his sons, and a faithful servant to come and see him. They supped with him; and a sad supper it was. But Taylor was brave and cheerful, and thoughtful only for his wife and children. He advised his wife to marry again—to marry as soon as possible a man who would be a good father to her poor children. “As for me,” he said, “I shall soon be with our pretty lost ones!”—for five of his nine children had already died.

4. Taylor on the Way Home.—Taylor was sent down to Hadleigh in Essex—where his church was—to be burnt in presence of his own parishioners. His wife waited, along with one of her daughters and an orphan girl they had adopted, all through a cold night in February, on the chance of seeing him as he passed. They waited in the cold stone porch of a church in the east end of the City. It was very early in the morning and quite dark when he passed; no lights, as now, brightened up the black street; but the orphan girl heard the tramp of the horses’ feet, and cried, “Oh, my dear father! Mother! mother! here is my father led away!” Then his wife called “Rowland! Rowland! where art thou?” Dr Taylor answered, “I am here, dear wife,” and stopped. The sheriff’s men would have taken him on; but the sheriff, more gentle-hearted than they, said, “Stay here a little, I pray you, and let him speak to his wife.” Then Rowland came over to his wife and daughters, and they all knelt down in the porch and said the Lord’s Prayer. At the sad sight and the trembling voices of the

women, tears coursed each other fast down the cheeks of the kindly sheriff and others of the bystanders. Then Taylor rose up and kissed his wife. "Farewell, my dear wife," he said; "be of good comfort, for I am quiet in my conscience! God will be a father to my children!" "God be with thee, dear, dear Rowland!" replied his wife; "we shall meet again!"

5. Taylor at the Stake.—Taylor knelt down in prayer, kissed the stake, and took his place on the barrel of pitch that had been made ready. His parishioners stood round him with streaming eyes and mourning voices, "Ah, there goeth our good shepherd from us!" "God save thee, good Dr Taylor! God strengthen thee and keep thee!" Like Thomas More, he recited the 51st Psalm, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me!" He began it in English; but one of the "gentlemen" struck him on the mouth and bade him speak Latin. He did not complain. He stood still in the flames without either crying or moving. A guard struck him on the head with a halberd, and, without a cry, he fell dead into the fire.

fre-quent'-ed, much resorted to by people.

de-grad'-ed, lowered; disgraced; put down from a higher to a lower rank.

el'-o-quent, having the power of speaking easily and well.

vest'-ment, a piece of clothing; garment.

cro'-sier, a bishop's staff, with a cross on the top of it.

par-ish'-ion-er, one who lives in a parish.

coursed, ran.

com-plain', cry out; murmur.

hal'-berd, a weapon consisting of a long pole with an axe fastened to it.

Jeremy Taylor, born at Cambridge in 1613, became one of the most noted of the divines who lived in the beginning of the Stewart Period. He was chaplain to Charles I. In Charles II.'s reign he was made a bishop in Ireland. He died in 1667.

49.—THOMAS CRANMER.

1. Cranmer degraded.—Thomas Cranmer was Archbishop of Canterbury ; and it was a very serious and terrible thing to think of burning the Primate of the English Church. But Mary had set her heart upon putting him to death, and was determined that he should not escape. He was first of all degraded. A mock altar was erected outside the Cathedral of Canterbury, and Cranmer was arrayed in mock robes made of coarse canvas, and in the symbols which mark the high office of archbishop. One by one they were taken from him, and at last the crosier was taken out of his hand. An old cap and coat were thrown upon him ; and then the bishop sent to degrade him said, " Now you are no longer My Lord ! "

2. Cranmer recants.—He was then sent down to be kept in prison at Oxford. He was not a strong man—not a man of much courage ; and he had never been able to get out of his eyes or mind the sight and the thought of Ridley's dreadful agonies in the fire,—for Ridley, whom he had seen executed at Oxford, had been so slowly burnt to death that his legs were charred away before the flame reached the body. Cranmer, with this horrid sight before his view, and a sickening fear at his heart, copied and signed whatever was brought to him ; signed paper after paper—signed in all six papers, in which he admitted that all he had before said and preached was quite wrong. But this sad submission did not save his life.

3. Dr Cole's Sermon.—Cranmer was conducted, in the midst of a strong guard, in the early dark of a cold March morning, through torrents of rain to the Church of St Mary's, in Oxford. One Dr Cole got into the pulpit, and

preached a sermon against the Protestant errors of Cranmer. But on this occasion Cranmer laid aside his cowardice, and rose to the high level of the dread event that stood before him. He declared that he had signed these papers "for fear of death, to save his life—if it might be." Then he added: "And forasmuch as my hand offended in writing contrary to my heart, my hand shall be the first punished; for, if I come to the fire, it shall be the first to be burnt." "Stop his mouth, and take him away!" cried Dr Cole; and he was led out of church. He passed out erect and brave, with a bright, cheerful face—like a man who had been "freed from a heavy load"—to the place where his two friends, Latimer and Ridley, had died. As the crowd followed him, many friends made their way through the guards, ran up to him, and shook hands in silence.

"But Cranmer, as the helmsman at the helm
Steers, ever looking to the happy haven
Where he shall rest at night, moved to his death."

4. The Execution.—He knelt and prayed, and then was chained to the stake. As the flames rose, he held out his right hand, and kept it in the fire till it was burnt away, now and then exclaiming, "This unworthy hand!" He was braver than he ever knew himself to be. He never stirred, nor moved, nor cried till life had gone. Our great living poet, Mr Tennyson, describes the scene; and puts this speech into the mouth of a bystander who narrates what he saw—

"Then Cranmer lifted his left hand to Heaven,
And thrust his right into the bitter flame;
And crying, in his deep voice, more than once,
'This hath offended—this unworthy hand!'
So held it till it all was burned, before
The flame had reached his body. I stood near—

Mark'd him—he never uttered moan of pain :
 He never stirred or writhed, but, like a statue,
 Unmoving in the greatness of the flame
 Gave up the ghost ; and so passed martyr-like ! ”

de-grad'-ed, deprived publicly of his
 office and state.

ar-rayed', dressed.

ag-on-y, very great pain of mind or
 body.

cow'-ard-ice, feeling of fear.

of-fend'-ed, did wrong.

ha'-ven, harbour.

nar-rates', tells the story of.

50.—ELIZABETH.—I.

1558-1603.—Reigned 45 years.

1. Who Elizabeth was.—The great and famous Queen Elizabeth—the only queen of that name whom we have had—was the daughter of Henry the Eighth and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. She was, therefore, half-sister to Edward VI. and the late Queen Mary. She was twenty-seven years of age when she came to the throne. Bright blue eyes, reddish hair, shapely white hands.—of which she was very proud—and a bright



Elizabeth.

quick look,—these and other points made her a strong contrast to her dark and sulky-looking sister. She was a woman of but small figure ; but her clear brave eyes, her

stately bearing, and her royal look, marked her every inch a queen. Her manners were frank and hearty—sometimes even hoydenish; her talk quick and lively; but her course of action was always prudent and cautious. Her most valuable power was the power which every ruler of men most needs, an unerring eye for able persons to carry out good plans and high ideas. She was sitting under a tree in Hatfield Park—about twelve miles from London—when the news of Mary's death and her own succession to the throne was brought her. "It is the Lord's doing," she said; "and it is marvellous in our eyes."

2. State of the Country.—England was not very happy or prosperous when "good Queen Bess" came to the throne. Englishmen felt humbled by the loss of Calais; and the troubles of the late reign had produced much misery, and unsettled many things. The country was still at war with France; and dangers of many kinds threatened her peace within and her safety abroad. But when Elizabeth came to the throne, Englishmen began to breathe freely again, just as if they had been let out of prison, and to look each other frankly in the face, without fear and without reproach.

3. The Church of England.—Elizabeth was neither a fierce Catholic nor an ardent Protestant; but it may be said that she changed the religion of England once more, and that the Protestant party gained the upper hand in her reign. By the advice of her counsellors, she took the title of Head of the Church; she forbade the use of any but the second Prayer-Book of Edward; and fines were imposed upon persons who did not go to church. In fact, the **Church of England** was set up in this country pretty much in the form in which it exists at the present day. The Roman Catholics—and perhaps more than half

of the English people were Roman Catholics—did not like this on the one hand; and, on the other hand, the extreme Protestants—or Puritans as they called themselves—disliked it quite as much, but for different reasons.



Progress of Elizabeth.

4. Catholics and Protestants.—The struggle between Catholics and Protestants was by no means confined to England; it was a struggle that was going on all over the west of Europe. The New Religion and the Old Religion were the powers that were to shake kingdoms and empires; and men had to make their choice between the two—and often this choice was a matter of life or death. In time, Queen Elizabeth came to be looked upon in Europe as the Head of the Protestant Cause,—though, when she first came to the throne, she attended Mass and

was herself a good Catholic ; and she did what she could to help Protestants in France, in the Netherlands, and in Scotland. The Head of the Catholic party was **Mary Stuart**, Dowager-Queen of France, Queen of England and Scotland—as she styled herself ; and she was regarded as their Head by the Catholic party, not only in Scotland, but also in England, and more especially by the great noblemen of the north. Abroad Spain was the mighty and potent Catholic power.

5. Philip's Offer.—Philip II. of Spain, the husband of the late Queen Mary, sent a message offering his hand and heart—such as they were—to Elizabeth. Her friends, however, advised her against such a union. She sent back the answer that she was very much obliged ; but that she was married to England already, and that she intended to have no husband but her people.

6. Elizabeth's Advisers.—Queen Elizabeth had the eye to choose good men, and the sense to follow their advice. Her chief adviser was Sir William Cecil, whom she afterwards created **Lord Burleigh**. Another was **Sir Francis Walsingham** ; and to his lot it fell to trace and to defeat the plots of the Roman Catholic party, and at length to bring about the death of Mary Queen of Scots. The Queen's favourite, however, was **Robert Dudley**, Earl of Leicester, son of that Duke of Northumberland who had been beheaded by the order of Queen Mary, and brother-in-law of the unhappy Lady Jane Grey.

bear'-ing, carriage ; manner.
 hoy'-den-ish, rough and free.
 pru'-dent, wise and careful.
 un-err'-ing, that cannot be deceived.
 mar'-vell-ous, strange ; wonderful.
 re-proach', blame ; disgrace.

coun'-sell-ers, advisers.
 im-pos-ed' upon, placed upon ; laid upon.
 styled, called.
 po'-tent, strong ; powerful.
 in-tend'-ed, meant.

trace, to follow out ; discover.

Burleigh was Secretary of State under Edward VI. and Elizabeth, and Grand Treasurer of England.

Sir Francis Walsingham, born at Chiselhurst, in Kent, in 1536, was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge. He became Secretary of State under Elizabeth, and was one of her best and wisest advisers. He died in 1590.

51.—ELIZABETH—II.

1558-1603.—Reigned 45 years.

1. Mary Queen of Scots.—Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was the unhappy daughter of an unhappy father. Her father was James the Fifth of Scotland, who died of grief and shame after the battle of Solway Moss. She had been married to the Dauphin, who died soon after he was crowned King of France. During her stay in France, her mother, Mary of Guise, a French lady, acted in Scotland for her as Regent. She had been foolishly advised to lay claim to the crown of England, as great-granddaughter of Henry VII.; and she thus gained for herself the lasting hatred of Queen Elizabeth. There was some fear, therefore, that the French might one day be able to claim the crowns both of England and Scotland, and to bring this island under the rule of the Pope once more. But when her French husband died, she left France for ever, to her great sorrow, and, as it proved, terrible misfortune, and crossed the sea to her kingdom of Scotland.

2. Mary in England.—After seven years of trouble and strife, of plots and fights, of battles and secret murders, Mary was dethroned and compelled to flee from Scotland. She fled across the Border to England in the year 1568, and, in her misery and despair, threw herself on the protection and kindness of her cousin Elizabeth. Now the advisers of the English crown knew that, besides being a

rival to Queen Elizabeth during her lifetime, Mary was the nearest heir to the crown in the event of her death. They had good grounds also for fearing that the English Roman Catholics would rise in arms against Elizabeth, and set up Mary as their queen. Mary was therefore kept in strict confinement—sent from house to house and from castle to castle—put under the charge of different powerful noblemen; and her life grew more and more sad, as less and less liberty was granted to her and the ladies who lived with her in her dull captivity.

3. Rebellions and Plots.—It was in the North of England that the Catholic cause was strongest. The Duke of Norfolk, one of the richest and most powerful noblemen in the country, had made an offer of marriage to the Queen of Scots. Elizabeth was very angry at this, and threw the duke into the Tower. Upon this a rising of Roman Catholics, headed by two earls, took place in the North, but it was quickly put down with a strong and determined hand. Secret plots, too, were constantly being formed against the life of Elizabeth; and for thirty years the Roman Catholic party had been engaged in hatching and in trying to carry out these plots. All of them were framed against Queen Elizabeth; most of them were in favour of Queen Mary; and it so happened that most of them were hatched in Spain. One plot, formed in 1584 by a Francis Throgmorton, was favoured even by the Spanish ambassador to our Court. This was found out; and Elizabeth at once ordered the ambassador to leave the kingdom without an hour's delay.

4. Execution of Queen Mary.—Most of the plots formed in this reign had, as we have seen, been formed in the interest of Queen Mary; and the advisers of Elizabeth kept constantly reminding her that there would be

no peace in the kingdom nor safety for the throne so long as she lived. Day by day, and week after week, was this dinned into her ears. They tried hard to persuade Elizabeth to put Mary to death ; but for nineteen years the queen had held out against the views of her advisers. At length, in 1587, when Elizabeth had been about thirty years on the throne, Walsingham discovered another plot, headed by a Roman Catholic gentleman named Antony Babington,—a plot to murder the queen, and to rescue Mary ; and he was able to bring forward proofs that Mary knew of and encouraged this plot. She was tried, found guilty, and condemned to die ; and was beheaded at Fotheringay Castle, after an imprisonment of nearly twenty years. The Londoners lighted bonfires and rang their merriest peal of bells ; a weight was lifted from the breasts of Englishmen, and they began to breathe more freely. For they felt that now there was an end to all these plots against the throne, and that England could at last offer a united front to her foreign foes.

de-throned', forced to leave the throne.

de-spair', with no hope.

am-bass'-a-dor, a person sent to rep-

resent his country at a foreign Court.

re-mind'-ing, putting in mind of.

Solway Moss. The battle of Solway Moss was fought in 1542 between the English and Scotch. The Scotch were defeated with terrible slaughter.

Fotheringay Castle, in the north of Northamptonshire.

52.—ELIZABETH.—III.

1558-1603.—Reigned 45 years.

1. The Training-Ground for Sailors.—The King of Spain possessed a great deal of land in Mexico and South

America. This land contained many rich gold and silver mines ; and from these mines there came every year a rich and heavily laden fleet to Spain, which was commonly called by the Spaniards the "Silver Fleet." It was the delight of our English sailors, and especially of the Devonshire men, to fit out swift ships, cross the Atlantic, hang on the skirts of the Spanish fleet, and when one of their vessels had by stress of weather been parted from the others, cut her out, take her, carry the silver on board their own ship, and then set her on fire. It was in these half-piratical cruises that our English sailors learned seamanship ; it was in the voyages to and fro across the stormy Atlantic that the Spaniards also learned to become a great seafaring nation.

2. Great English Sailors.—**Francis Drake**, a Devonshire man, was one of these bold English seamen. Even



Old English Ship.

when England was at peace with Spain, he was not to be held back. He knew that the western coast of South America was in the hands of Spain, and

that it was rich in silver. He knew, too, that no Englishman had ever been in the Pacific ; that the Spaniards had it all to themselves ; and he felt sure that they would never

expect to see an English ship on the western coasts of South America. Drake, acting on these notions, made his way through the Straits of Magellan, turned north up the west coast, and sailed into the harbour of Valparaiso. The Spanish sailors naturally thought that Drake's ship was Spanish, and were on the point of sending a messenger to ask him and his men to dinner. But his men were going to help themselves: they sprang on board one of the ships, seized it, and brought away 400 lb. weight of gold. North—ever north—he sailed, visiting the ports, clearing the ships and quays of pieces of gold and bars of silver. When he saw a string of mules and llamas, laden with silver, coming in single file down the mountain-roads, he politely waited till they reached the coast, and then relieved them of their load, and the guides of their charge. Having thus enriched himself and his men, he struck right across the Pacific; came home by way of the Cape of Good Hope; and thus sailed round the world. He was the first English sailor who had ever gone round the globe. The Spaniards called him a pirate; Queen Elizabeth made him a knight; and Sir Francis Drake was the hero of all the southern counties that border the English Channel. There were others nearly as famous as he—**Hawkins**, a Plymouth man; **Martin Frobisher**, a great Arctic explorer; and **John Davis**, who gave his name to Davis Straits.

3. Fears for the New World.—It was from the New World that the King of Spain got his riches; and it was the source of these riches that was now in danger. Sir Francis Drake, in 1585, gathered a fleet of twenty-five ships, set sail for the Spanish Main, took and plundered several very wealthy cities, and returned in the following year laden with the richest booty. Philip felt that this would never do. England must be attacked and subdued,

and these English pirates routed out of their nests. Now Spain ruled over the Netherlands—which lie right opposite our country; and the plan that Philip formed in his mind was a great naval invasion from two different centres—from the Netherlands on the north, and from Spain on the south—both at the same time. The English Roman Catholics, he thought, would rise in favour of Mary; his great general, the Duke of Parma, would easily seize London; Elizabeth would be put to death; Parma would marry Mary; and England would be fettered, peaceful, and Catholic once more.

4. The King of Spain's Beard.—For three years the King of Spain had been hoarding money, hiring soldiers, building ships, and collecting provisions for this mighty and resistless expedition; and many of the ships and a great quantity of stores were lying in Cadiz. The news reached England; Drake waited upon the queen. "Please your Majesty," said he, "I should be glad to have a commission." "What do you want a commission for?" asked Elizabeth. "So please your Majesty, I should like to singe the King of Spain's beard: it has grown somewhat too long." So, in 1587, Drake, who never could rest, was off again, and made straight for the good harbour of Cadiz. The harbour was full of store-ships, laden with provisions for the mighty fleet that was to bear down everything before it. In spite of a hail of shot from the forts, Drake sailed right in and set fire to every ship. He repeated this operation in every harbour he could make his way into; and when he came home, he told his friends that he had been singeing the King of Spain's beard—a bold stroke which put off the visit of the Armada for a whole year.

skirts, edges.

stress, force.

cruise, a voyage in a ship.

en-riched', made rich.

Arctic ex-plor'-er, one who tries to discover new facts concerning the lands and seas round the North Pole.

sub-dued', conquered.

pi'-rate, one who commits robbery and murder on the sea.

fet'-tered, bound.

hoard'-ing, laying up; storing.

re-sist'-less, that cannot be kept or driven back.

Pacific Ocean, the *peaceful* ocean. It lies to the west of America, and separates it from Asia and Australia.

Straits of Magellan lie to the south of South America, between the continent and the island of Tierra del Fuego. These straits are about 300 miles long. They are called after Magellan, a Portuguese navigator, who first sailed through them.

Valparaiso, the principal seaport in Chili, on the west coast of South America.

Llama, a South American animal of the camel kind.

THE CUP OF COLD WATER.

1. 'Twas on the field of Zutphen;
The battle's din was o'er,
And bold and gallant foemen
Had fallen to rise no more.
2. Sir Philip had been wounded:
When hardly yet begun,
His noble life was ebbing fast;
His glorious work was done.
3. And, as he rode in agony,
A deep cry from him burst:
"Oh, for one drop of water,
To quench this raging thirst!"
4. With willing steps and loving hearts,
They bring it him in haste;
See! with what eagerness he longs
The cooling draught to taste!

5. But, as in very act to drink,
 He hears a stifled moan
 From a poor soldier lying near,
 And dying all alone.
6. Without one least complaining word,
 Without one single sigh,
 He yields the cup; he simply says:
 "He needs it more than I."

gal-lant, brave and manly.
 ebb'-ing, flowing out.
 ea'-ger-ness, great longing.

stif'-led moan, a cry that is kept
 back or choked.

Zutphen is in the Netherlands or Low Countries. The battle which took place near it, and in which Sir Philip Sidney was killed, was fought against the Spaniards in 1586.

Sir Philip Sidney was one of the foremost and most accomplished men of Elizabeth's reign.

53.—ELIZABETH.—IV.

1558-1603.—*Reigned 45 years.*

1. **The Invincible Armada, 1588.**—"The Most Fortunate and Invincible Armada"—the fleet that could not be beaten—consisted of one hundred and thirty-two ships, most of them of a size greater than had ever yet been seen; armed with countless cannon—many of them of brass. They were to sail from Lisbon for the coast of Flanders, where they were to take on board the army of the Duke of Parma, and also a large number of sailors. They were then to turn and make for England, sweep her fleet from the seas, and pour down their hosts upon the land. Elizabeth had no regular army, and only a very

small regular navy, which consisted of small ships. But England and Englishmen were equal to the occasion. Many private gentlemen and noblemen—Catholics as well as Protestants—hired or built ships, manned them, and fought them themselves; the cities, too, collected money and built ships for the defence of their dear native country. **Lord Howard of Effingham**, a Roman Catholic, was put in command of the fleet; and with him were the daring Drake, the rapid Hawkins, and other famous English sailors.



Tilbury Fort.

2. Queen Elizabeth at Tilbury.—The army of England was mustered at Tilbury Fort, on the Thames; and the queen went down to review and to address them. “My loving people,” she said, “I am come amongst you at this time, not for sport or pleasure, but—in the midst and heat of battle—to live or die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, if need be, even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman;

but I have the heart and courage of a king, and of a King of England too. And I think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm!" These words thrilled the hearts and stirred the blood of the English volunteers—for volunteers they were—as with the sound of a trumpet; and every man resolved to die rather than permit a single Spaniard to land on our country's coasts.

3. The Fight in the Channel.—The Armada came up the Channel in the form of a crescent moon—seven miles from tip to tip; the English fleet allowed the Armada to sail past, hung upon its rear, and now and then cut out a stray ship; and for a whole week—from July 20 to July



The Armada.

28—a running fight was kept up. Then, on Sunday, the 28th, the two fleets at length faced each other off the port of Calais. The small English ships were short of powder, and could not beat, by mere force of guns, these immense floating batteries. A plan was wanted; and it is said that the plan came from the busy brain of Elizabeth herself. In the dead dark of night, six of the oldest

vessels in the English fleet, which had been filled with pitch, sulphur resin, old ropes, and other things that would burn well, and all their guns loaded with bullets and round stones, were steered by "two valiant men of Devon"—Young and Prowse—right into the heart of the Armada. The ships were fired; and the men took to their boats. The "device" was a complete success. The Spanish sailors cut their cables, hoisted any sails that came to hand, staggered wildly out to sea—"every ship foul of her neighbour"—and the invincible Armada was broken up.

4. The Return Home.—Of the hundred and thirty-two ships that came out against England, only fifty-three found their way back to Spain. Of the thirty thousand men who sailed for the conquest of this country, only ten thousand ever saw their native land again. The sun of Spain had set; the day of England's greatness was rising. Philip heard the news with quiet mien and unblanched cheek. "I sent my fleet," he said, "against man, not against the billows. I thank God that I could easily, if I chose, place such another fleet upon the high seas."

in-vin'-ci-ble, that cannot be conquered.

reg'-u-lar army, an army kept drilled and ready for war.

col-lect'-ed, gathered together.

mus'-tered, came together.

thrilled, went right through.

vol-un-teer', one who willingly offers himself for service.

cres'-cent, growing.

bat'-ter-y, a fort crowned with guns for its defence.

mien, manner.

un-blanced', not made white.

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, a seaport on the shores of the Atlantic.



54.—ELIZABETH.—V.

1558-1603.—*Reigned 45 years.*

1. **The Earl of Essex.**—The Earl of Leicester, who had long been the favourite and friend of the queen, died soon after the defeat of the Armada. To his place in her regard succeeded a “dashing young man,” the **Earl of Essex**. He was a brave and daring leader; but he lacked the power of patience, and thus never did anything really great. He was eager for employment; and the queen sent him to Ireland to put down a rebellion which had taken place. She wished to see Ireland thoroughly put down and kept down; for she was afraid that the Spaniards might conquer the island, and so be always able to threaten England from the west. Essex did very little except march up and down the country, and lose a large number of his men; the queen’s advisers began to murmur; and Elizabeth herself wrote a letter to Essex on the subject of these complaints.

2. **Essex leaves Ireland.**—Essex, fearing that his enemies in London would get the better of him, suddenly left the army without permission, threw himself on board a ship, landed, galloped to London, and presented himself to the queen booted and spurred, and bespattered with mud from head to foot. Elizabeth received him very kindly; but, as he had left his command without permission, word was sent him to stop in his own house until an inquiry had been made into his conduct. The favourite was mad with rage; and he and a few friends formed the rash project of riding into the City of London, and calling upon the citizens to rise and protect him. “For the queen! For the queen!” he shouted; “a plot

is laid for my life!" but the Londoners simply looked, listened, and did not seem to understand or to care—not a soul stirred foot or hand to aid him.

3. The Stolen Ring.—The rash earl was seized, thrown into the Tower, tried for high treason, and condemned to death. In earlier happier days the queen had given Essex a ring, bidding him send it to her if he should ever have any important request to present to her or special petition to make. She now expected that he would use this ring and send it to her with a request for pardon—a pardon which she longed with all her heart to give. She waited and waited, hoping against hope, and wondering much; day after day passed, but no ring came. The brave but rash Essex was led out to the block; and his head fell upon Tower Hill. Nearly two years after, the queen received a message from a dying woman, begging that she would come and see her: it was Essex's cousin, the Countess of Nottingham. The dying woman confessed that Lord Essex had sent the ring; but that she, at the command of her husband, had kept it back; and she humbly begged the queen's forgiveness. But the poor old queen, trembling with rage and grief, with misery and old age, rose and shook the poor dying woman angrily by the shoulder. "God may forgive you, but I never can," she shrieked; and left the room, wretched and broken-hearted.

4. The Death of Elizabeth.—The story of the Countess of Nottingham was a terrible blow to the queen, who was by this time an old woman. Her stout heart and high spirit seemed to be broken; and she began to grow peevish and moody. She who had never feared plot or threat, foreign prince or native rebel, was now a prey to perpetual terror—to the terror of domestic assassination. She

walked up and down her room almost constantly, stamped with her foot, now and then thrust a sword through the arras, and always kept a sword by her even at table. When she grew weaker, she lay on a bed on the floor, propped up with pillows, never speaking, never looking up, never moving a finger. If one of her advisers ventured to hint a word about the person who should succeed her, she flashed out upon him and said it was "like pinning her shroud round her face." Cecil affirmed that she wished the King of Scots to succeed her; for, when his name was mentioned, she raised her hands above her head, and joined them "in manner of a crown." But she spoke no clear word upon the subject; and at two o'clock in the morning of the 24th of March 1603, the spirit of this last of the Tudors passed away.

5. A Gallop to Scotland.—There were sad and anxious faces in the death-chamber of this last of the Tudors; and the passing away of the aged queen might be looked for at any moment. Lady Scrope knelt at the side of the bed. Her brother, Sir Robert Carey, was waiting in a room not far from the chamber of the dying woman, booted and spurred, and with his horse ready saddled in the court. At two o'clock in the morning a light in a certain window went out: it was the signal: the light of the queen's life had also gone out. Sir Robert mounted his horse and galloped off to Scotland. For three days and two nights he rode; and on the third day he bent the knee before a Stuart—before James the Sixth of Scotland, saluting him as king, and hailing him as **James the First of England**.

6. Elizabeth as a Queen.—There were in Elizabeth two persons and two characters—the queen and the woman. As a queen, she was very able, far-sighted,

strong-willed : she was, in short, a match for any statesman or monarch in the whole of Europe,—for she loved England, and knew the feeling and temper of the country better than even the wisest of her advisers. She made England one of the first powers in Europe ; she made London—what it still is—the mart of the world. It was perfectly true what she said of herself : “ Nothing—no worldly thing under the sun—is so dear to me as the love and goodwill of my subjects ! ”

7. Elizabeth as a Woman.—As a woman, Elizabeth was extremely vain, very eager for flattery, and very fond of show. She had, at her death, three thousand rich dresses in her wardrobe, thirty wigs, and a countless array of bracelets, necklaces, rings, and jewels of all kinds. At Court or on a royal progress she positively blazed with jewels. Her courtiers professed to believe that she was dazzlingly beautiful—that they were quite unable to look at her full in the face—that the sun-like beauty of this peerless princess was a good deal too much for them. They therefore bowed their way up to her radiant presence with their hands shading their eyes, as if they could not look with open eyes upon that “ divine beauty and excellence.” But these weaknesses were as nothing compared with the good she did for our country. She found England divided—she welded it into one united power ; she found it distrustful, torn, and weak—she left it hopeful, growing, and strong.

8. Great Writers.—In the reign of Elizabeth there lived and worked a great number of very able and eminent writers, both in prose and in verse. Two of the greatest poets were **Edmund Spenser** and **William Shakespeare**. . . . Edmund Spenser was the author of a long and beautiful poem called *The Fairy Queen*, which he

dedicated to Queen Elizabeth. Spenser's verse is among the sweetest and most beautiful of its time, and indeed of all times. . . . Shakespeare, who was born at Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, in 1564, went up to London, became an actor there, and after making his fortune, retired to his native town, where he bought a beautiful house. He is the greatest poet that ever lived. His poems are chiefly dramas, and perhaps the greatest of them all is *Hamlet*. . . . **Francis Bacon**, Lord Verulam, was the greatest prose-writer of his time, and one of the wisest men that ever lived. His best known book is a volume of **Essays**.

suc-ceed'-ed, came after; followed.
 pre-sent'-ed himself, came into the
 presence of.
 pro'-ject, plan; resolve.
 spec'-ial, particular.
 pe-tit'-ion, something asked.
 do-mes'-tic, belonging to home.

ass-ass-i-na'-tion, sudden and secret
 murder.
 mart, market.
 daz-z-ling-ly, blindingly.
 div-ine', belonging to a god.
 weld'-ed, joined firmly together.
 ded'-i-cat-ed, inscribed to.

dra'-ma, something written for the purpose of being acted on the stage.



CHIEF DATES.

	A.D.
HOUSE OF ANJOU.— Reign of Henry II. ,	1154-1189
Murder of Becket,	1170
Conquest of Ireland,	1169-1171
Reign of Richard I., <i>The Lion-Heart</i>,	1189-1199
Reign of John, <i>Lackland</i>,	1199-1216
Battle of Bouvines ,	1214
MAGNA CARTA,	1215
Reign of Henry III., <i>of Winchester</i>,	1216-1272
The Fair of Lincoln,	1217
The Mad Parliament,	1258
Battle of Lewes ,	1264
THE FIRST PARLIAMENT,	1264
Battle of Evesham ,	1265
Reign of Edward I., <i>Longshanks</i>,	1272-1307
Conquest of Wales ,	1284
Edward invades Scotland,	1295
Robert Bruce takes up the Scottish Cause,	1306
Reign of Edward II., <i>of Caernarvon</i>,	1307-1327
Battle of Bannockburn ,	1314
Edward is deposed,	1327
Reign of Edward III., <i>of Windsor</i>,	1327-1377
Hundred Years' War begins ,	1338
Battle of Crecy ,	1346
Taking of Calais ,	1347
The Black Death,	1349
Battle of Poitiers ,	1356
Peace of Bretigny ,	1360
Reign of Richard II., <i>of Bordeaux</i>,	1377-1399

	A.D.
Rising of the Peasants,	1381
The Wonderful Parliament,	1388
Landing of Bolingbroke,	1399

HOUSE OF LANCASTER.—**Reign of Henry IV., of**

<i>Lancaster</i> ,	1399-1413
Battle of Shrewsbury ,	1403
Reign of Henry V., of Monmouth ,	1413-1422
Henry's first invasion of France,	1415
Battle of Agincourt ,	1415
Henry's second invasion of France,	1417
The Great Peace,	1420
The third invasion of France,	1422
Reign of Henry VI., of Windsor ,	1422-1461
Jack Cade's Rebellion,	1450
End of the Hundred Years' War ,	1453
Duke of York made Protector ,	1454
Battle of St Albans ,	1455
Battle of Blœre Heath ,	1459
Battle of Northampton ,	1460
Battle of Wakefield ,	1460
Battle of Mortimer's Cross ,	1461
Henry is deposed,	1461
Battle of Towton Moor ,	1461

HOUSE OF YORK.—**Reign of Edward IV., of York**, 1461-1483

Henry replaced upon the throne; Edward has to flee,	1470
Edward lands at Ravenspur,	1471
Battle of Barnet Heath ,	1471
Battle of Tewkesbury ,	1471
First book printed in England,	1474
Reign of Edward V., April 9—June 26 ,	1483
Reign of Richard III., Crook-Back ,	1483-1485
Battle of Bosworth ,	1485

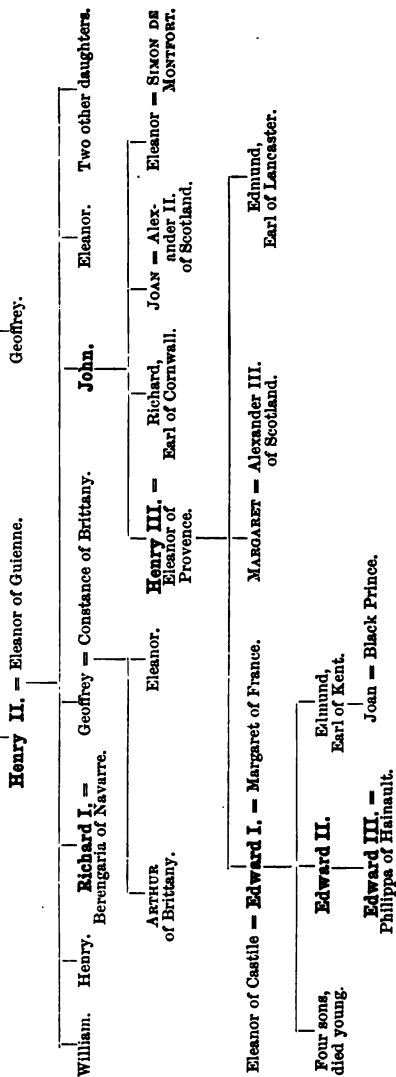
A.D.

HOUSE OF TUDOR.—Reign of Henry VII., of Rich-	
<i>mond,</i>	1485-1509
MARGARET TUDOR MARRIES JAMES IV. OF SCOT-	
LAND,	1503
Reign of Henry VIII.,	1509-1547
Battle of Flodden,	1513
The Field of the Cloth-of-Gold,	1520
Death of Wolsey,	1530
Sir Thomas More executed,	1535
Reign of Edward VI.,	1547-1553
Reign of Mary I.,	1553-1558
Reign of Elizabeth,	1558-1603
Execution of Mary Queen of Scots,	1587
Defeat of the Armada,	1588

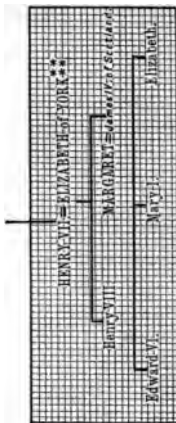
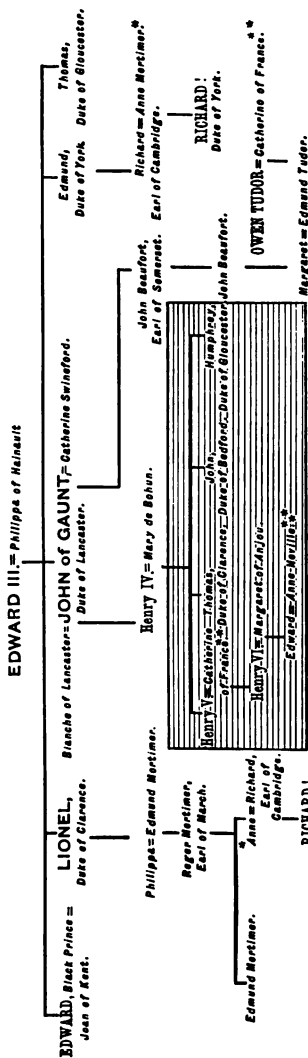


GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE PLANTAGENETS.

GEOFFREY PLANTAGENET, Count of Anjou — **Matilda**, daughter of Henry I.



Genealogical Table showing the Relation of the Houses of Lancaster, York and Tudor.



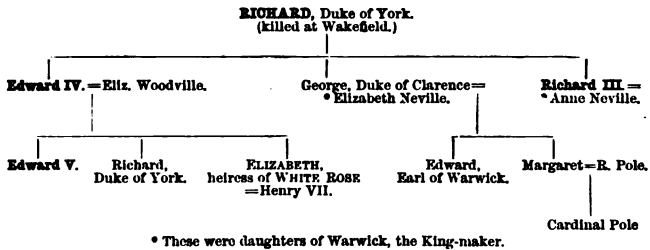
House of Tudor. []



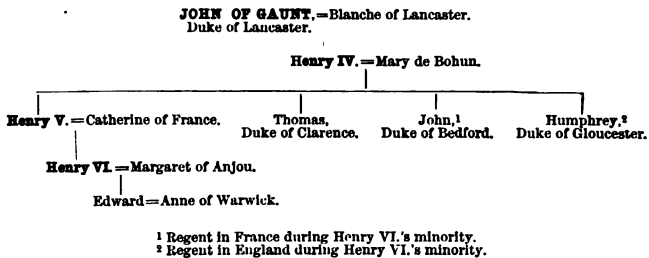
House of Lancaster. []

House of York. []

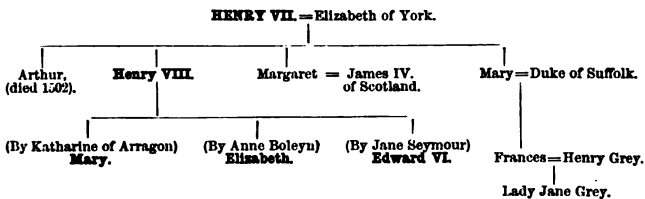
HOUSE OF YORK.

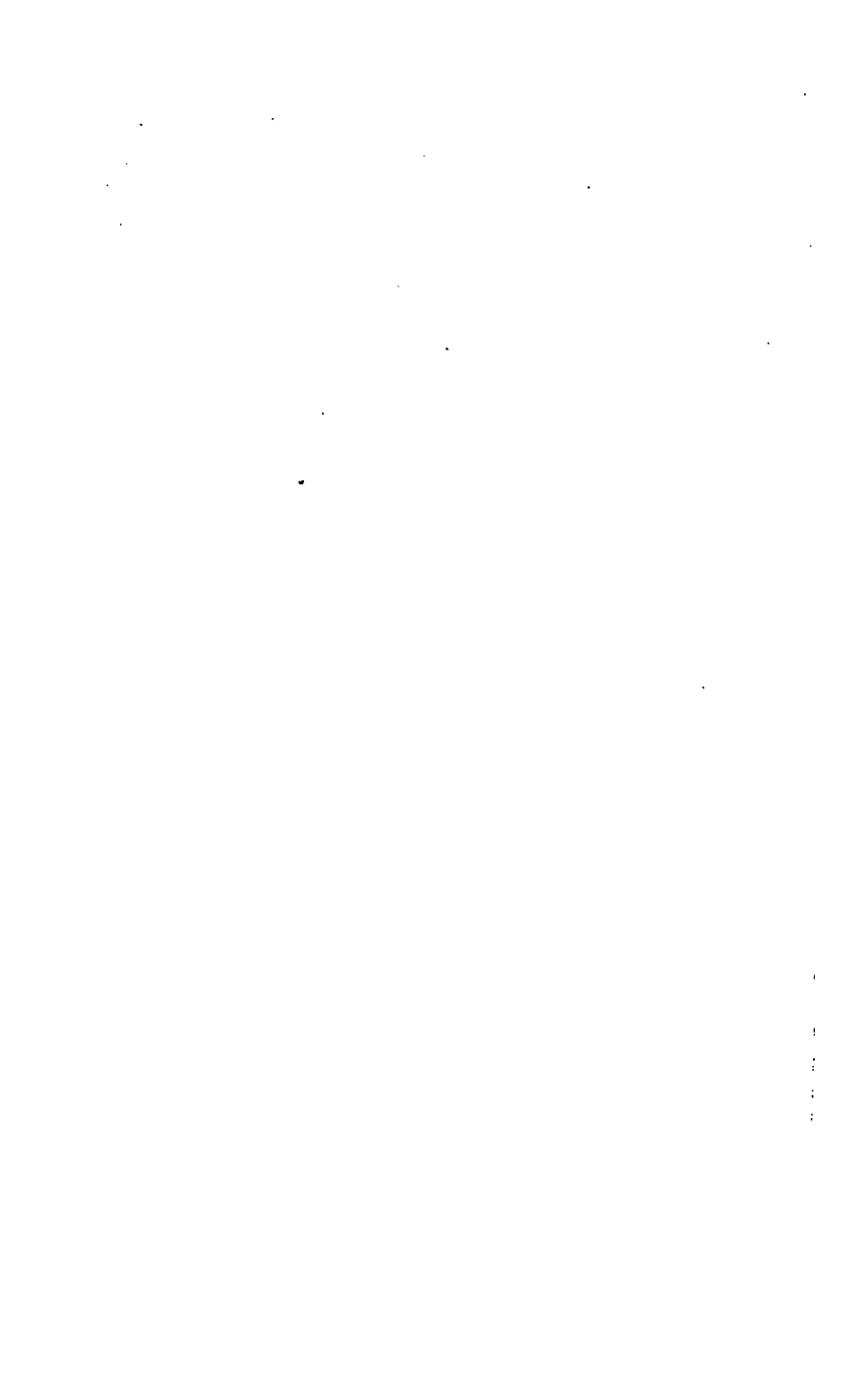


HOUSE OF LANCASTER.



HOUSE OF TUDOR.





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